

Bishop Bronescombe C of E Primary School

RE UNIT: Why do Hindus try to be good?

Year 5/6



Key vocabulary

Karma	Actions and in particular, the consequences of our actions in this life and the next.
Samsara	The cycle of life including birth, life, death and rebirth.
Moksha	The final release from the cycle of rebirth – to join with Brahman.
Soul	The essence of a living being.
Incarnation	Being alive on earth in a particular form.
Reincarnation	The rebirth of a soul into another body/
Sadhu	A Holy man – usually one who has turned away from ordinary life to concentrate on spiritual matters.
Atman	Eternal self. Often referred to as 'spirit' or 'soul.' It indicates our true self which underpins who we are

Overview of the topic

Hindus believe in reincarnation, the cycle of rebirth. They believe that the soul is eternal and lives many lifetimes, in one body after another, and the next incarnation depends on how the previous life was lived.

The soul (Atman) can be born in a human form, or that of a plant or animal, as all living things have a soul (Brahman in everything).

Hindus try to live in a way that will cause each of their lives to be better than the life before. The spiritual goal of a Hindu is to become one with Brahman.

This is called Moksha and until it is achieved, Hindus believe that they will continue to be reincarnated so that they work towards self-realisation of the truth: that nothing else but Brahman exists. Once Moksha is achieved, the soul (Atman) is released to be united with Brahman.



By the end of the unit, you should be able to:

- Identify and explain Hindu beliefs, e.g. dharma, karma, samsara, moksha, using technical terms accurately
- Give meanings for the story of the man in the well and explain how it relates to Hindu beliefs about samsara, moksha, etc.
- Make clear connections between Hindu beliefs about dharma, karma, samsara and moksha and ways in which Hindus live
- Connect the four Hindu aims of life and the four stages of life with beliefs about dharma, karma, moksha, etc.
- Give evidence and examples to show how Hindus put their beliefs into practice in different ways
- Make connections between Hindu beliefs studied (e.g. karma and dharma), and explain how and why they are important to Hindus
- Reflect on and articulate what impact belief in karma and dharma might have on individuals and the world, recognising different points of view

Karma

In a lifetime, Hindus believe that people build up Karma, both positive and negative, based on their actions within that lifetime. This Karma affects their future lives and existences. People must take responsibility for their actions during this time and the next. Believing in Karma has an effect on how a Hindu behaves.

Moksha

Moksha is linked closely to Karma, as the actions a person performs have a direct influence on their next life, so to achieve Moksha, good karma must be built up.

What is Brahman?

Brahman is the ultimate reality, the supreme God. It is a divine being.

