



Freeland CE Primary School

KCV Mat for RE – Kingfishers Spring 1

Theme: Hinduism



Key Question: Do beliefs in Karma, Samsara and Moksha help Hindus lead a good life?

Key Concept Questions:

What do Hindus believe?

How do Hindus build up good karma?

How do Hindus believe they can achieve Moksha?

What would reincarnation be like for a Hindu?

Key Knowledge

For many Hindus, religion is a matter of practice rather than of beliefs. It's more what you do, than what you believe. Hindus believe in a universal soul or God called Brahman. Brahman takes on many forms that some Hindus worship as gods or goddesses in their own right. Hindus believe that there is a part of Brahman in everyone and this is called the Atman.

Hindus believe in reincarnation - a belief that the soul is eternal and lives many lifetimes, in one body after another. The soul is sometimes born in a human body, sometimes in an animal body and sometimes in a plant body etc.. Hindus believe that all forms of life contain a soul, and all souls have the chance to experience life in different forms.

Hindus believe that the soul passes through a cycle of successive lives and its next incarnation is always dependent on how the previous life was lived. (Similar to Buddhist beliefs) Karma is the cause of our particular destiny. Misfortunes in our present life are the result of acts that we have committed in the past. In the same way, our actions in our present lives will determine our fate in the lives that follow. Hindus therefore aim 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 Brahma. This freedom is referred to as moksha. Until moksha is achieved, a Hindu believes that he/she will be repeatedly reincarnated in order that he/she may work towards self-realization of the truth (the truth being that only Brahman exists, nothing else).

Key Vocab	Definition
Universal soul or God	A being that is worshipped and believed to have special powers over nature or life
Atman	The individual soul striving for enlightenment
Reincarnation	A belief that the soul is eternal and lives many lifetimes, on one body or another.
Samsara	Going through the cycle of repeated births and deaths
Brahman	The highest being
Karma	The principle that one's actions determine one's future in this life or in other incarnations.