

RE – World Religion – Hinduism (Year 4)

Learning Objective:

To understand why the River Ganges is important in Sanatanis beliefs and how visiting it might affect a person's spiritual journey.

Questions we have previously explored:

- What is a special place?
- Why do people go on journeys to important places?
- What makes a place sacred or meaningful?

Our new key question:

- Does visiting the River Ganges make a person a better Sanatani?

Key Facts:

The River Ganges is a very special and sacred river for Sanatanis. Many Sanatanis believe that bathing in the river can wash away impurity. Ancient scriptures called the Puranas say the river brings blessings. Important rituals and ceremonies often happen on the riverbank or in the water. Some Sanatanis believe that visiting the Ganges helps them spiritually and supports them on their life journey.

Key Vocabulary:

Ganges – A sacred river in India that is very important in Sanatani beliefs.
Puranas – Ancient Sanatani scriptures.
Samsara – The cycle of life, death and rebirth.
Moksha – Freedom from the cycle of Samsara (a state of liberation).

How this connects to our learning:

Links to what we've learned about pilgrimage and journeys to special places.
Helps us understand how different religions show respect and devotion.
Connects to ideas about sacred sites from earlier RE lessons.

Questions to think about:

Why might visiting a sacred river feel special?
Do special places help people feel closer to their beliefs?
Can visiting a holy place change how someone behaves or feels?