

Year 2 Religious Education – World Religion

Hinduism (Sanatana Dharma) – Term 5

Key Question: Who is God to Sanatanis?

We are looking at the Sanatani beliefs in God and how these beliefs are formed into images and murtis (images of the deities). We will consider the stories and symbols and how these beliefs impact on a believer's daily life.

Key Vocabulary	Definition
Hindu (Sanatani)	Someone who follows Hindu (Sanatani) Dharma
Brahman	Hindus recognise one god, Brahman
Brahma	Hindu god of creation
Vishnu	Hindu god who protects the universe
Shiva	Hindu god who is known as the destroyer
Atman	Hindus (Sanatanis) believe that there is a part of Brahman in everyone and this is called the Atman
murtis	Images and objects Hindus (Sanatanis) use to portray God.

Special Places for Hindus (Sanatanis)

Hindus (Sanatanis) can worship at home using a home shrine or mandir.



They can also worship in the temple – some temples are very tall buildings because Hindus believe it brings them closer to heaven. In a temple (or mandir) there are shrines and lots of murtis for different gods. Offerings of flowers are brought to the murtis.



History of Hindu (Sanatani) Dharma

Hindu (Sanatani) Dharma is one of the oldest of the world's religions. It is now practised all over the world, but originated in South East Asia. It is a mix of different beliefs, cultures and traditions dating back over 4000 years. Their beliefs about God have developed over a long period of time – Brahman is the name of God. Brahman is represented in many deities each with different roles or responsibilities.

The three main aspects (Trimurti) are: Vishnu, Brahma and Shiva.



The three great goddesses (Tridevi) are: Saraswati, Lakshmi and Shakti.

Hindus (Sanatanis) can pray to different gods and goddesses for help with different needs.

Aum

This is the most important symbol in Hindu Dharma.



The aum symbol represents a sacred syllable and Brahman, the ultimate reality.