

Medium Term Plan: Supporting Implementation of LTP/Progression Grid

Subject: LKS2 Year 4 RE and World Views – Hindu Dharma

Key Question (to be used all year): How should we live our lives?

Focus Question (for this investigation): What might a Hindu learn from celebrating Diwali?

PoS aims from Lancashire SACRE:

- *Key features* = Tradition, Morality, Commitment, Identity, Celebration, Symbolism

This unit gives children the opportunity to explore the theme of good overcoming evil – just as light overcomes darkness. Pupils should deepen their understanding of Hindu beliefs about God by learning about Rama as an avatar of Vishnu. They should be able to connect this with the Diwali theme – Rama is a deity and therefore represents goodness. As an avatar of Vishnu, it is his role to uphold dharma and fight evil. This is exemplified in the story of Rama and Sita which is celebrated at Diwali. Pupils should know that Diwali is a popular Hindu festival and be able to explain the deeper meaning of festival celebrations such as the lighting of diva lamps, fireworks, decorating homes with rangoli patterns. They should reflect on the symbolism of light within all human cultures, and consider how light might be a universal symbol of goodness and hope.

Prior Learning (what pupils already know and can do)

- This unit gives pupils the opportunity to revisit the story of Rama and Sita (they will have been introduced to this story in LKS2 Year A if on cycle one).

Long-term Learning (what pupils MUST know and remember) End Goals

- To explain that Hindus believe they have a moral duty (Dharma) and a firm belief in moral virtues.
- To retell the story of Rama and Sita and recognise Rama as an avatar of Vishnu (who represents goodness and protection)
- To know that the story of Rama and Sita can be used for moral guidance by many Hindus
- To know that the story of Rama and Sita is celebrated at Diwali and that Diwali is a popular Hindu festival, celebrated all around the world for a period of 5 days
- To recognise that many Hindus celebrate Diwali by lighting candles and diva lamps, attending and hosting fire work displays and decorating their homes with lights and rangoli patterns
- To know that light is an important symbol of Diwali as it represents good overcoming evil

Disciplinary knowledge (on-going for the year)

- Describe what a believer might learn from a religious story (Rama and Sita)
- Make links between ideas about morality and sources of authority
- Describe the impact religion has on believers' lives (traditions and celebrations)
- Explain the deeper meaning and symbolism for specific religious practices (Light within Diwali)
- Consider the range of beliefs, values and lifestyles that exist in society (How light and goodness is viewed by other religions and non-religions)
- Reflect on their own personal sources of wisdom and authority (in relation to goodness overcoming evil and 'light')

Key Vocabulary

- Dharma, Moral virtues, Avatar, Diwali, Vishnu, Rama, Sita, Incarnation

Session 1: What are duties and moral virtues, and how can they guide people on how they should live their lives?

Children learn or recap that Hinduism is a Dharmic religion and that they believe they have a moral duty and that they have firm belief in moral virtues. Children then ask questions, discuss and explore the idea of 'duty' and moral virtues in life (religious and non-religious).

Core knowledge

- To explain that Hindus believe they have a moral duty (Dharma) and a firm belief in moral virtues.

Suggested activities/Teacher subject knowledge

- Discuss how the word 'Dharma' means a religious or moral duty, and how it is a central belief for Hindus. They also believe in **moral virtues**. Give the children some examples of these, such as honesty, courage, loyalty, discipline and being helpful.
- Children can create a mindmap to illustrate examples of these moral virtues.
- They can also add more of their own ideas and examples of what constitutes a moral virtue.

Medium Term Plan: Supporting Implementation of LTP/Progression Grid

- Can they see any benefit in celebrating these, even for people with a different/or non-religious belief?

Vocabulary = Dharma, moral virtues, non-religion

Session 2: Where can we see 'goodness' and 'light' in the world?

Children explore the symbolism of 'goodness' and 'light' in the world, and discuss how and why the theme of good overcoming evil is so prominent in stories both now and throughout history.

Core knowledge

Builds directly towards -

- To recognise Rama as an avatar of Vishnu who therefore represents goodness and protection in the Story of Rama and Sita
- To explore teachings about good and evil in the story of Rama and Sita
- To explain that light is a symbol of goodness and guidance in the story of Rama and Sita
- To explain the importance of light in the Diwali celebrations, and its symbolism.

Suggested activities/Teacher subject knowledge

- Discuss how the theme of good overcoming evil is often a theme in stories and films. Produce a list of examples. Talk about whether this is the case in the real world or if it is simply an ideal in stories.
- List examples of where we might see 'goodness' in the world. Collect images that could be used as a symbol of goodness.
- Briefly recap 'light' as a symbol from KS1 (Christianity – Jesus as the light of the world) – what does light symbolise?
- Find examples of people who have overcome difficulties and could be described as sources of light, hope and goodness for others. Some examples may be Marcus Rashford, Malala Yousafzai, Martin Luther King, Stephen Hawking.

Vocabulary = 'Light', Symbolism, evil, goodness

Session 3: How does good overcome evil in the Ramayana?

Children will learn the story of Rama and Sita. Through this, they will explore the teachings about good and evil as well as the symbolism of light.

Core knowledge

- To simply retell the story of Rama and Sita
- To recognise Rama as an avatar of Vishnu who therefore represents goodness and protection in the Story of Rama and Sita
- To know that the story of Rama and Sita can be used for moral guidance by Hindus as it has themes of good overcoming evil, persistence and dedication.
- To know that light is an important symbol of Diwali as it represents good overcoming evil

Suggested activities/Teacher subject knowledge

- Read a children's version or comic book of the story of Rama and Sita (the Ramayana) or watch the following video: [The story of Rama and Sita - BBC Teach](#). Write or share a plot summary of the story and discuss how it develops and explores the theme of good overcoming evil.
- Explore the central characters of the plot – Rama, Sita, Lakshman, Ravanna, Hanuman – what might Hindus learn from each of these characters? Which characters might be good role models for Hindus and why?
- What does 'light' symbolise in this story? (Guidance and peace)

Vocabulary = Rama, Sita, Lakshman, Ravanna, Hanuman, the Ramayana, Diwali

Session 4: How does Rama fulfil the role of avatar and what can Hindus learn from his actions in the Ramayana?

Children will revisit and learn the main features of Hinduism, concentrating on the concept of avatars. They will recognise that Rama is an avatar of Vishnu and will explore the significance of this within the meaning and morals of the story itself.

Core knowledge

- To explain that Hindus believe they have a moral duty (Dharma) and a firm belief in moral virtues.
- To recognise Rama as an avatar of Vishnu who therefore represents goodness and protection in the Story of Rama and Sita
- To know that the story of Rama and Sita can be used for moral guidance by Hindus as it has themes of good overcoming

Medium Term Plan: Supporting Implementation of LTP/Progression Grid

evil, persistence and dedication.

Suggested activities/Teacher subject knowledge

- Recap on the story of Rama and Sita from the previous session.
- Recap the main features of Hinduism (refer to deities as learnt in KS1 where children learnt that *Hindus believe in one God (Brahman) who can be worshipped in many forms & each have different qualities and are portrayed in different ways*
- Investigate Hindu beliefs about avatars – living forms of Vishnu who come to earth in times of trouble to defeat evil and restore dharma (pupils should have learned about dharma – religious duty – in LKS2 Year A, but this will need to be revisited and discussed for cycle 2 – BA - pupils).
- Learn about the deity Vishnu (the protector and preserver).
- Tell the children that Rama is **an incarnation of Vishnu, God of Protection**
- Discuss - How does Rama fulfil the role of avatar?
- Discuss in groups what it teaches them about the Hindu faith. (Good will overcome evil. Vishnu will preserve and protect.) In which parts of the story is the theme of good overcoming evil the most prominent?

Vocabulary = Rama, Sita, deity, avatar, incarnation

Session 5: How is Diwali celebrated and why is 'light' so significant in the festival?

Children learn about and investigate how Diwali is celebrated. They will recognise that Diwali is the festival that celebrates the story of Rama and Sita.

Core knowledge

- To know that the story of Rama and Sita is celebrated at Diwali
- To know that Diwali is a popular Hindu festival, celebrated all around the world for a period of 5 days
- To recognise that Hindus celebrate Diwali by lighting candles and diva lamps, attending and hosting fire work displays and decorating their homes with lights and rangoli patterns
- To know that light is an important symbol of Diwali as it represents good overcoming evil

Suggested activities/Teacher subject knowledge

- Investigate how Hindus in the UK celebrate Diwali. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uRpNNF4fB4g> (Ask children who are Hindus or invite a Hindu in to talk to the children)
- Refer to diva lamps, fireworks and rangoli patterns and look at images of these, annotating or explaining how they represent light, guidance and good overcoming evil in Diwali festivities.
- Make links between the religious traditions and celebrations of Diwali and the story of Rama and Sita.
- Discuss how light is a universal symbol of goodness and hope.

Vocabulary = Diwali, tradition, celebration

Session 6: What might a Hindu learn from celebrating Diwali?

Children reflect on their learning to answer the question – What might a Hindu learn from celebrating Diwali? They should further reflect on 'light' and moral stories that have made an impact on their own lives.

Core knowledge

- To explain that Hindus believe they have a moral duty (Dharma) and a firm belief in moral virtues.
- To simply retell the story of Rama and Sita
- To recognise Rama as an avatar of Vishnu who therefore represents goodness and protection in the Story of Rama and Sita
- To know that the story of Rama and Sita can be used for moral guidance by Hindus as it has themes of good overcoming evil, persistence and dedication.
- To know that light is an important symbol of Diwali as it represents good overcoming evil

Suggested activities/Teacher subject knowledge

- Recap prior learning on Diwali by responding to the unit question - What might a Hindu learn from celebrating Diwali?
- **Personal meaning** - Discuss stories that have influenced them – what guidance/support/wisdom have they gained from stories? Discuss where they might see goodness in the world today and what symbols represent goodness.
- Talk about the importance of light in their own lives – when are they most in need of light and why? What does

Medium Term Plan: Supporting Implementation of LTP/Progression Grid

light symbolise to them?

Future learning:

This will support further learning in UKS2 when looking at Dharma in more detail in the context of samsara, karma and moksha.