

Glossary of key terms – Hindu Dharma

	Word	Definition
EYFS	Aum	The most sacred symbol in Hindu dharma. The letter “A” signifies the waking state; “U” stands for the dream state; and “M” denotes the unconscious state or the state of deep sleep.
	Deities	The gods and goddesses
	Diwa lamp	The lights lit at Diwali to guide Rama and Sita home
	Diwali	The Festival of lights
	Hindu	A follower of Hindu dharma
	Mandir	The place of worship for Hindus sometimes referred to as a temple
	Murtis	An image or statue inside or outside of a Mandir or home used in worship
	Namaste	A respectful greeting
	Prashad	A devotional offering made to a god
	Puja	The act of worship
	Rama	The hero of the Ramayana, the husband of Sita
	Rangoli pattern	A traditional Hindu decoration made with ground rice
	Sita	The wife of Rama.
Key Stage 1 As above and:	Arti Lamp	The waving of lighted lamps before an image of a god or a person to be honoured
	Brahman	A member of the highest Hindu caste or the supreme universal being
	Universal Spirit	Everlasting and unchanging
Lower Key Stage 2 As above and:	Avatar	The manifestation of a deity in bodily form
	Dharma	Duty
	Karma	Good or bad luck resulting from one's actions
	King Ravana	The demon king in the Ramayana
	Raksha Bandhan	A festival traditionally held in August
	Ramayana	The story of the rescue of Sita by Rama and Lakshma
	Trimurti	The trinity of Brahma, Vishnu and Shiva
	Vedas (The)	The sacred texts of Hindu dharma
Upper Key Stage 2 As above and:	Ashramas	The four stages of an ideal life
	Atman	A person's soul
	Bhagavad Gita	The 'Song of God' one of the most important texts
	Brahmacharya	The first stage of life known as the student stage
	Grihastha	The second stage of life known as the 'householder' stage
	Holi	A festival held in spring in honour of Krishna
	Krishna	The eighth and most important avatar of Vishnu
	Moksha	The release from the cycle of death and rebirth
	Prince Prahlad	A pious boy who worshipped Vishnu instead of his father, the king. His story is celebrated at Holi
	Rebirth	The process of being reincarnated or born again
	Samsara	The cycle of death and rebirth to which life in the material world is bound
	Sannyasin	The fourth stage of life known as the renunciation stage
	Vanaprastha	The third stage of life known as the forest stage