Strategy 1 – Representation

1. Suffolk RE Agreed Syllabus 2023: The Emmanuel scheme's implementation has been instrumental in underscoring to children, particularly those in UKS2, the importance of acquiring knowledge about various religions, regardless of personal faith affiliation. This program not only contributes to their individual growth but also stimulates critical thinking abilities by prompting exploration and comprehension of diverse belief systems.

The Hindu belief is adequately represented. The ‘Dharma’ unit is a particular favourite in my school. It is currently being taught in Year 3 and the teacher even embeds it into the English lessons. The children enjoy the unit, and parent volunteers come in to give them a wholesome experience with some food tasting, rangoli pattern making, and henna designing.

In general, teachers have said each unit is very helpful but some of the video links do not work. I am happy to help look for new ones under an expert’s guidance.

This unit strikes a chord with them on multiple levels, sparking their curiosity and igniting engaging discussions. As they delve into the intricacies of Moksha, they not only grasp its philosophical significance but also begin to reflect on their own journeys and aspirations.

I am looking forward to hearing about the new unit on Hindu Dharma (How does a Hindu celebrate devotion to a deity at the festival of Holi?) from teachers.

I am happy to help with any of these units in terms of updating video links, any further information etc.

1. I am not sure about national bodies but there is a temple in Ipswich and they welcome visitors. Children in Year 3 visited the temple and enjoyed the experience. They have a website, which is very basic as it is maintained by volunteers (<http://ipswichhindusamaj.onesuffolk.net/>)

While researching, the Hindu Forum of Britain (HFB) seem to be the largest organisation for Hindus in Britain. It does require a membership to access areas so I will look into this further. It does state on their website that the HFB seem to engage with government bodies on topics such as religious education.

On another note, a temple that I visit regularly in London is happy for me to request a video tour of its premises after discussion with the Trustee members. However, it is visited more by Indians from South India and the deities and worship culture might be slightly different to what people are usually aware of. For eg, Diwali in North India is the celebration of the return of Lord Rama along with his wife Sita and brother Lakshmana to their kingdom of Ayodhya after defeating the demon king Ravana. The festival symbolises the victory of light over darkness, righteousness over evil, and knowledge over ignorance. However, in South India Diwali is called ‘Deepavali’ and celebrates the victory of Lord Krishna over the demon king Narakasura. According to legend, Lord Krishna liberated the world from Narakasura's tyranny, restoring peace and righteousness. This victory is celebrated with great enthusiasm, with rituals such as oil baths, fireworks, and the lighting of lamps to symbolise the triumph of good over evil.

1. Personally I am not aware of national or global issues faced by the Hindu community. I can continue to research about this and report at a later date if required.