

Puja – the home and the mandir	Year Group: KS2	No. of lessons: 6
Learning objectives: To explore the idea of worship in the family and community context.		
Themes to discuss: Special places for me and others. How do I think the world began? What are the most important things in my life?		
Activities and experiences: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Talk about which is the most important room in your own homes and why (would the answer be different for different members of the family?) Look together at Chandra’s special room – his garden shed - http://www.devon.gov.uk/dcs/re/places/index.html and think together about the questions on this webpage. • Look together at http://www.ngfl-cymru.org.uk/vtc/ngfl/re/m_parry_carmarthenshire/artefactau/cysegrfa.htm or http://atschool.eduweb.co.uk/carolrb/Hinduism/hindui.html for a simple version of a home shrine. Use the details here to construct a home shrine display. Make sure that everyone recognises the murtis used. Understand that different families, perhaps even different family members, will prefer different deities for the shrine. If happy to do so, the teacher can role play a puja using the details in this booklet and talking through the actions. Watch cartoon puja online at http://www.hindukids.org/pray/morning_prayer.html Listen to Hindu mantras being chanted, especially Aum which you can hear at http://www.hindukids.org/pray/om.html Discover the special meaning of Aum and try chanting it yourselves. If you had to think of a sound which would begin the creation of the world, what would it be? Discuss what would be the most important thing in your own homes – is there anything at all like a Hindu shrine? • Look at videos of worship in a mandir and note the similarities and differences between worship here and in the home. If you cannot visit a mandir take an on-line virtual tour(s) and use textbooks to discover the special features of a building. Make a fact sheet for fellow pupils visiting the Mandir –what should they be aware of, what should they look out for – a good website for this activity is the Neasden Temple’s one at http://www.mandir.org/ • Find out what other things happen in a temple by reading the noticeboards at the Preston mandir : http://www.cleo.net.uk/resources/displayframe.php?src=200/consultants_resources%2Fre%2Ftemple!%2Findex.htm - you could try their online quiz together on the smart board. • When Hindus begin their puja at home or in the mandir they usually offer prayers first to Ganesha, the god of good fortune and the remover of obstacles. Write prayers for Ganesha (or suggest topics people would pray to Ganesha about) and add these to 		

your shrine display.

Websites and resources:

There is a short video of a priest offering arti at <http://www.sln.org.uk/re/southindiaimages.htm> and a cartoon version at <http://www.hindukids.org/pray/aarati.html>

