

Religious Studies Topic of the Month

June 2025

How might new places of worship impact community and interfaith relations?

Topic of the month aims to stimulate discussion at Key Stages 4 and 5 and bring religion to life. This can be achieved by considering religion's relevance in our vast modern world. We have selected a current news article, which you may wish to read and integrate into your teaching practice, using the discussion prompts provided.



Disclaimer:

This topic relates to an article, written by Piers Meyler for EssexLive* and is entitled "Chelmsford to get its first permanent Hindu temple".

Introduction

This article relates to the establishment of Chelmsford's first permanent Hindu temple, highlighting its significance for the local Hindu community.

[\(Click here to access the article\)](#)

Discussion prompts

- Why is a local place of worship important to a group of worshippers?
- How does the establishment of the temple reflect the principles of religious freedom in the UK?
- What role do places of worship play in the preservation and practice of religious traditions?
- How might the new temple influence interfaith relations in Chelmsford?
- What are the potential social benefits of having a permanent Hindu temple in a community?

Links to topics featured in our specifications:

- **GCSE:**
 - Equality
 - Religious attitudes towards religious freedom
 - The importance of Hindu places of worship
 - Support for the family in the local Hindu community
- **A-Level:**
 - Social and historical developments including challenges and responses
 - Religion and Society