

# CENSUS 2021 – Ethnicity, Religion & Language Briefing

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## Introduction

On Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> November 2022, the Office for National Statistics (ONS) published its second phase outputs from the 2021 Census, which provides statistics on Ethnicity, Religion and Languages for all local authority areas in England & Wales.

The key summary points are:

- Barnet’s population comprised of 57.7% from a white background, 19.3% from an Asian background, 7.9% from a black background, 5.4% from a mixed background and 9.8% from other ethnic groups in the 2021 Census.
- Those that reside in Barnet and identified as white British made up 36.2% of the population and reduced by 21,340 vs the 2011 Census (45.5%).
- Those that identified as “Other ethnic group: Any other ethnic group” increased by 153.5% from 2011 (12,105 (2011) vs 30,687 (2021)).
- Residents that described themselves as having “No religion” had the largest increase in Barnet from Census 2011 to Census 2021 with 20.2% of Barnet’s population identifying as having no religion, which is an increase of 4.1% from 2011.
- Those that resided in Barnet and described themselves as “Christian” decreased by 4.7% vs the 2011 Census.
- Those that described themselves as “Jewish” made up 14.5% of the population in Barnet; this is 12.9% more than the London average of 1.7%.
- 77.1% of residents aged over 3 years old stated that English was their main language, this is an increase of 0.5% from the 2011 Census, but 1.3% below the 2021 London average.
- 95.9% of Barnet’s population self-identify as being proficient in the English language which is the same as the London 2021 average.

## Ethnicity

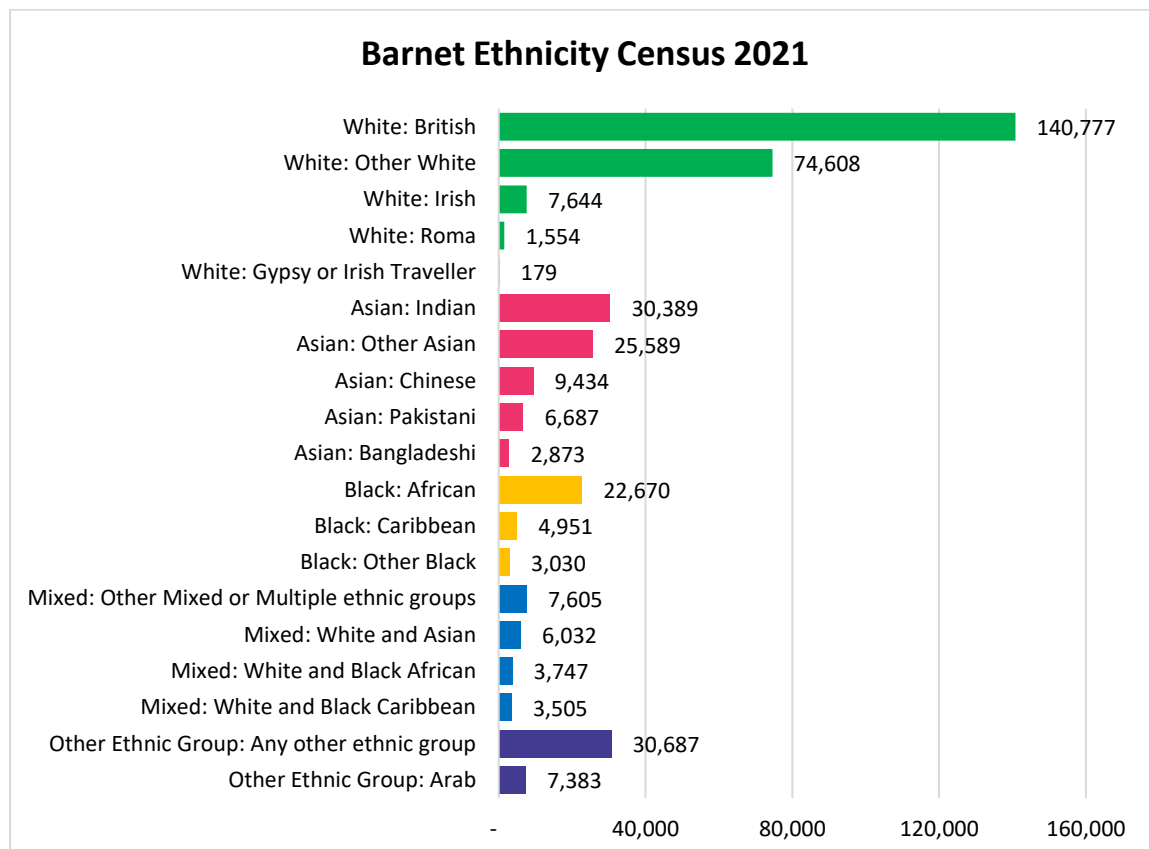
In the 2021 Census, Barnet’s population comprised of 57.7% from a white background (224,762), 19.3% from an Asian background (74,972), 7.9% from a black background (30,651), 5.4% from a mixed or multiple ethnic group background (20,889) and 9.8% from other ethnic groups (38,070).

The ethnic group that had the largest increase in the total percentage of Barnet’s population were those that identified as an “Other ethnic group” with a percentage increase of 4.9%. The ethnic group that had the only decrease are those that identified with a white background with a total percentage reduction of 6.4%.

**Table 1: Census 2011 vs Census 2021 Barnet Ethnic Groups**

Ethnicity	2011 Census		2021 Census		Total Percentage Difference (2011 vs 2022 Census)
	Number	%	Number	%	
White or White British	228,553	64.1%	224,762	57.7%	-6.4%
Asian or Asian British	65,918	18.5%	74,972	19.3%	0.8%
Black or Black British	27,431	7.7%	30,651	7.9%	0.2%
Mixed or Multiple Ethnic Groups	17,169	4.8%	20,889	5.4%	0.5%
Other Ethnic Group	17,315	4.9%	38,070	9.8%	4.9%

**Chart 1: Census 2021 Barnet Population by Ethnicity**



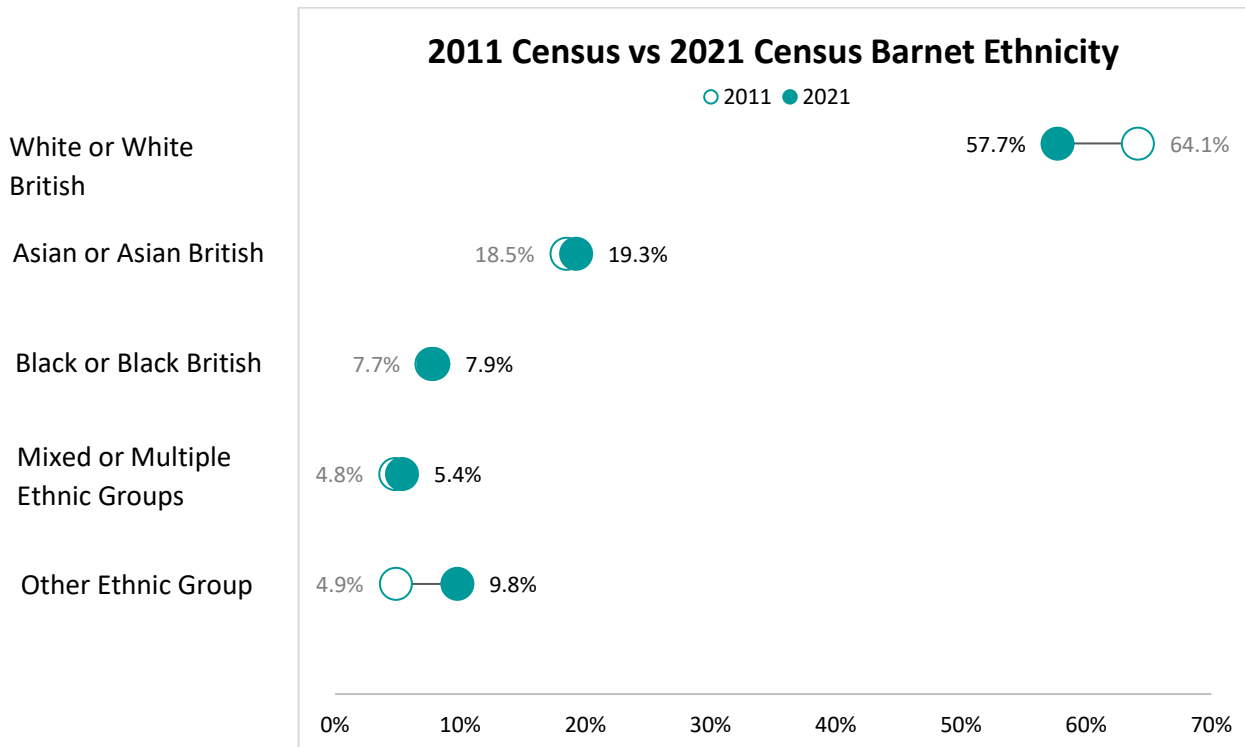
In 2021, those from a white British background made up the majority of the population residing in Barnet although they reduced by 21,340 vs the 2011 Census. Those that identified as having a 'White Other' non-British background had a population increase of 17,008 vs the 2011 Census and were the second largest ethnicity group in terms of population. Those from an "Any Other Ethnic Group" background saw the greatest total population increase of 18,582 vs the 2011 Census.

Ethnicities that had the highest growth in Barnet included those that identified as 'Any other ethnic group', "Other mixed", "Arab", "Bangladeshi", and "other white". Those that identified as "white Roma" fell under a new category for the 2021 Census so there is no comparative data to the 2011 Census.

**Table 2: Census 2011 vs Census 2021 Total Population by Ethnicity in Barnet**

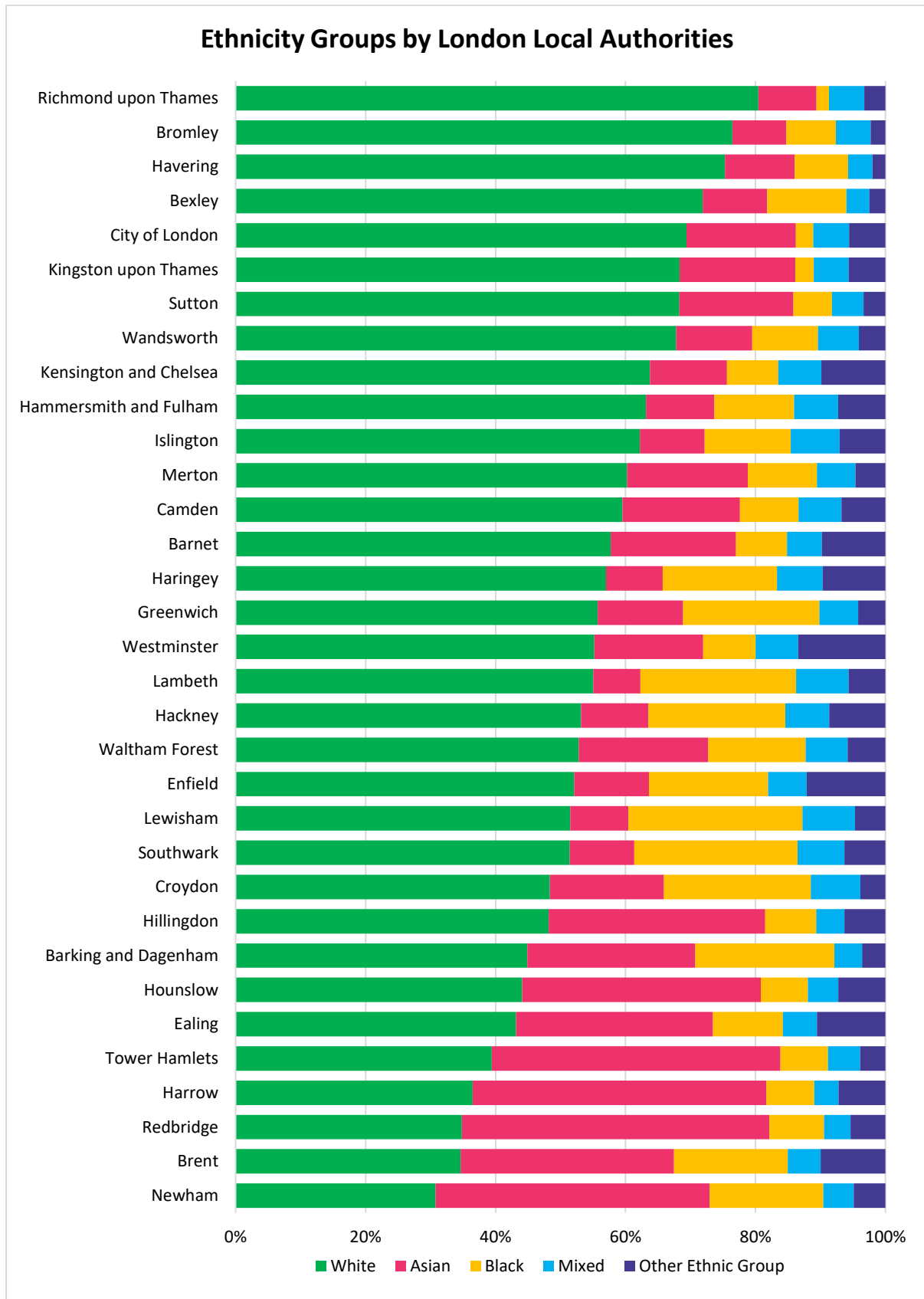
Ethnic Group	Barnet 2011		Barnet 2021		2011 vs 2021 Census Growth Number	2011 vs 2021 Census Growth Percentage
	Number	%	Number	%		
White: British	162,117	45.5%	140,777	36.2%	-21,340	-13.2%
White: Other White	57,600	16.2%	74,608	19.2%	17,008	29.5%
Other ethnic group: Any other ethnic group	12,105	3.4%	30,687	7.9%	18,582	153.5%
Asian: Indian	27,920	7.8%	30,389	7.8%	2,469	8.8%
Asian: Other Asian	22,180	6.2%	25,589	6.6%	3,409	15.4%
Black: African	19,392	5.4%	22,670	5.8%	3,278	16.9%
Asian: Chinese	8,259	2.3%	9,434	2.4%	1,175	14.2%
White: Irish	8,685	2.4%	7,644	2.0%	-1,041	-12.0%
Mixed: Other Mixed	5,078	1.4%	7,605	2.0%	2,527	49.8%
Other ethnic group: Arab	5,210	1.5%	7,383	1.9%	2,173	41.7%
Asian: Pakistani	5,344	1.5%	6,687	1.7%	1,343	25.1%
Mixed: White and Asian	5,882	1.7%	6,032	1.5%	150	2.6%
Black: Caribbean	4,468	1.3%	4,951	1.3%	483	10.8%
Mixed: White and Black African	3,112	0.9%	3,747	1.0%	635	20.4%
Mixed: White and Black Caribbean	3,097	0.9%	3,505	0.9%	408	13.2%
Black: Other Black	3,571	1.0%	3,030	0.8%	-541	-15.1%
Asian: Bangladeshi	2,215	0.6%	2,873	0.7%	658	29.7%
White: Roma	N/A		1,554	0.4%	1,554	-
White: Gypsy or Irish Traveller	151	0.0%	179	0.0%	28	18.5%

**Chart 2: Census 2011 vs Census 2021 Barnet Ethnicity Percentage of Population**



Maps showing the distribution of ethnicities in Barnet by Middle Super Output Area (MSOA) can be found in the Annex of this document on page 10.

**Chart 3: Census 2021 Ethnic Groups by Percentage of Population by London Local Authorities**



## Religion

The ONS introduced a voluntary question on religion in the 2021 Census. The response rate for Barnet in 2021 was 91.6% which is slightly less than the London average of 92% and less than the national average of 94%.

The number of people that described themselves as having “No Religion” had the largest increase in Barnet from Census 2011 to Census 2021 with 20.2% of Barnet’s population identifying as having “no religion” which is an increase of 4.1% from 2011. This coincides with the decrease of 4.7% for those that reside in Barnet and described themselves as “Christian”.

In Census 2021, 47,688 residents described themselves as “Muslim” which is a 30% increase from Census 2011 where 36,744 residents described themselves as “Muslim” which is the highest increase in number for those identifying as having a religion from the previous census.

**Table 3: Census 2011 vs Census 2021 Total Population by Religion in Barnet**

Religion	Barnet 2011		Barnet 2021		Census 2021 vs 2011 Percentage Change	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
No Religion	57,297	16.1%	78,684	20.2%	21,387	4.1%
Christian	146,866	41.2%	142,321	36.6%	-4,545	-4.7%
Buddhist	4,521	1.3%	4,158	1.1%	-363	-0.2%
Hindu	21,924	6.2%	22,105	5.7%	181	-0.5%
Jewish	54,084	15.2%	56,616	14.5%	2,532	-0.6%
Muslim	36,744	10.3%	47,688	12.2%	10,944	1.9%
Sikh	1,269	0.4%	1,524	0.4%	255	0.0%
Other Religion	3,764	1.1%	5,192	1.3%	1,428	0.3%
Not answered	29,917	8.4%	31,056	8.0%	1,139	-0.4%

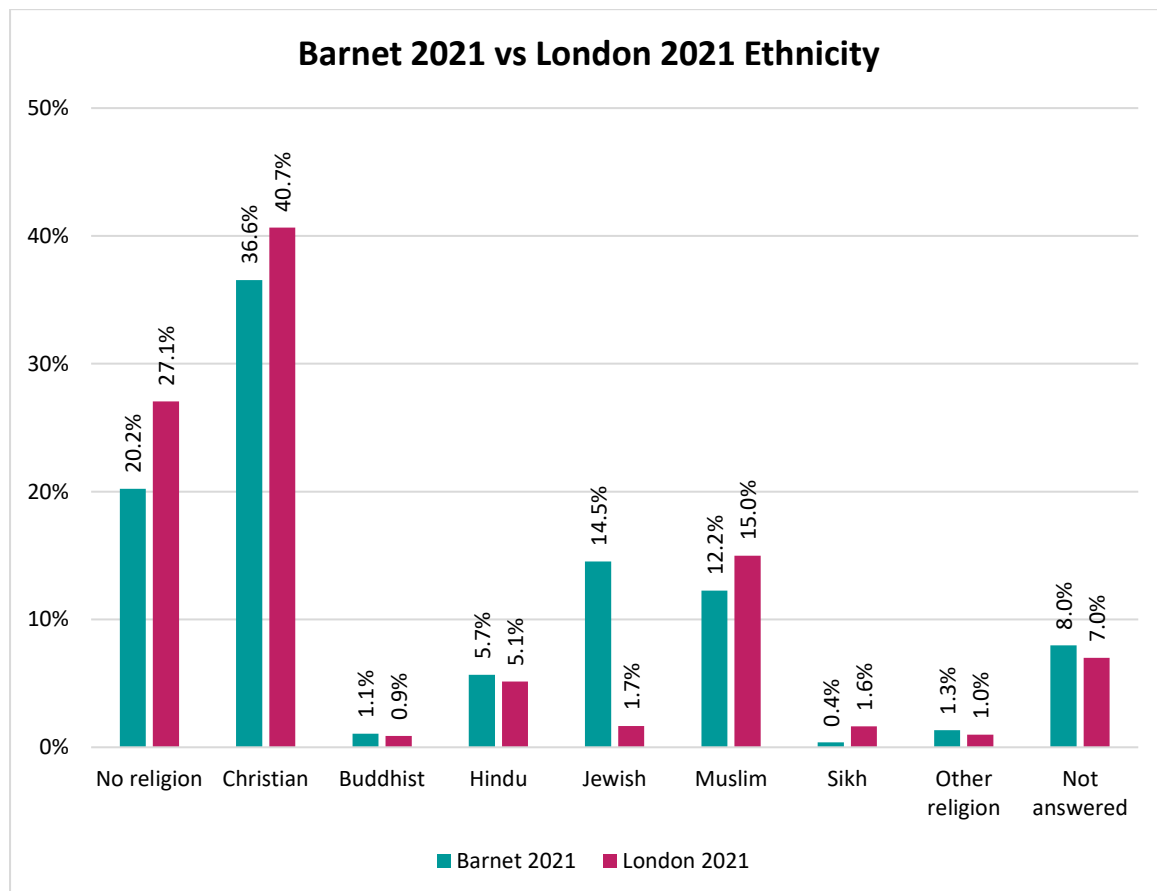
London remained the most religiously diverse region of England. “Christian” was still the most common response in London (40.7%, 3.6 million of all usual residents). Over a quarter (25.3%, 2.2 million) of London’s population identified with a religion other than “Christian”, up from 22.6%, 1.8 million, in 2011. The next most common religious groups in London were “Muslim” (15.0%, up from 12.6% in 2011) and “Hindu” (5.1%, up from 5.0% in 2011).

Those that describe themselves as “Jewish” made up 14.5% of the population in Barnet, this is 12.9% more than the London average of 1.7%. In London, 38.9% (56,616 / 145,467) of those that described themselves as “Jewish” resided in Barnet and Nationally, 21.7% (56,616 / 261,282) of those that described themselves as “Jewish” resided in Barnet.

**Table 4: Barnet 2021 vs London 2021 Population by Religion**

Religion	Barnet 2021		London 2021		Barnet 2021 vs London 2021 Percentage Difference
	Number	%	Number	%	%
No religion	78,684	20.2%	2,38,0403	27.1%	-6.8%
Christian	142,321	36.6%	3,577,684	40.7%	-4.1%
Buddhist	4,158	1.1%	77,426	0.9%	0.2%
Hindu	22,105	5.7%	453,035	5.1%	0.5%
Jewish	56,616	14.5%	145,467	1.7%	12.9%
Muslim	47,688	12.2%	1,318,755	15.0%	-2.7%
Sikh	1,524	0.4%	144,538	1.6%	-1.3%
Other religion	5,192	1.3%	86,759	1.0%	0.3%
Not answered	31,056	8.0%	615,665	7.0%	1.0%

**Chart 3: Census 2021 Barnet vs London Population Percent by Ethnicity**



## Language

In 2021, 77.1% of residents aged over 3 years old stated that English was their main language; this is an increase of 0.5% from the 2011 Census, but -1.3% against the 2021 London average. The language that has seen the largest increase since 2011 is Romanian with 3% of Barnet's population over the age of 3 stating this as their main language; this was 1.1% higher than that the London average of 1.9% stating Romanian as their main language.

The main language which had the largest decrease since the 2011 Census was Polish. In 2021, 1.5% of Barnet's population over the age of 3 stated this is their main language which is a decrease of 0.9%. In London, there was a similar trend with the Polish language decreasing from 1.8% in 2011 to 1.3% in 2021.

**Table 5: Census 2011 vs Census 2021 Top 20 Main Languages spoken in Barnet (excluding those aged 3 and under)**

Main Language	Barnet 2011		Barnet 2021		Total Percentage Difference (2011 vs 2022 Census)
	Number	%	Number	%	
English	260,753	76.6%	289,057	77.1%	0.5%
Romanian	3,995	1.2%	11,164	3.0%	1.8%
Persian or Farsi	6,639	2.0%	8,442	2.3%	0.3%
Polish	7,930	2.3%	5,542	1.5%	-0.9%
Gujarati	7,278	2.1%	5,207	1.4%	-0.7%
Portuguese	2,839	0.8%	3,926	1.0%	0.2%
Arabic	3,305	1.0%	3,806	1.0%	0.0%
Albanian	1,757	0.5%	3,209	0.9%	0.3%
Spanish	2,164	0.6%	3,182	0.8%	0.2%
Italian	1,897	0.6%	2,954	0.8%	0.2%
Greek	2,103	0.6%	2,928	0.8%	0.2%
Turkish	2,025	0.6%	2,336	0.6%	0.0%
Bulgarian	1,190	0.3%	2,238	0.6%	0.2%
Pashto	1,781	0.5%	2,173	0.6%	0.1%
All other Chinese	2,503	0.7%	1,968	0.5%	-0.2%
Hungarian	1,715	0.5%	1,928	0.5%	0.0%
Tagalog or Filipino	1,766	0.5%	1,799	0.5%	0.0%
Japanese	2,449	0.7%	1,653	0.4%	-0.3%
French	2,177	0.6%	1,611	0.4%	-0.2%



In Census 2021, 18.8% of Barnet's population whose main language was not English described themselves as proficient in English, so they spoke English either "well" or "very well", meaning that 95.9% of Barnet's population were English speakers which is the same as Census 2011.

The percentage of Barnet's population that were proficient in the English language is the same as the London 2021 average of 95.8%.

**Table 6: Census 2011 vs Census 2021 Proficiency in English Language in Barnet (excluding those aged 3 and under)**

Proficiency in English language	Barnet 2011		Barnet 2021		Total Percentage Difference (2011 vs 2022 Census)
	Number	%	Number	%	
Main language is English (English or Welsh in Wales)	260,753	76.6%	289,057	77.1%	0.5%
Main language is not English (English or Welsh in Wales): Can speak English very well	34,452	10.1%	38,886	10.4%	0.2%
Main language is not English (English or Welsh in Wales): Can speak English well	31,674	9.3%	31,657	8.4%	-0.9%
Main language is not English (English or Welsh in Wales): Cannot speak English well	11,655	3.4%	13,502	3.6%	0.2%
Main language is not English (English or Welsh in Wales): Cannot speak English	1,897	0.6%	2,000	0.5%	0.0%

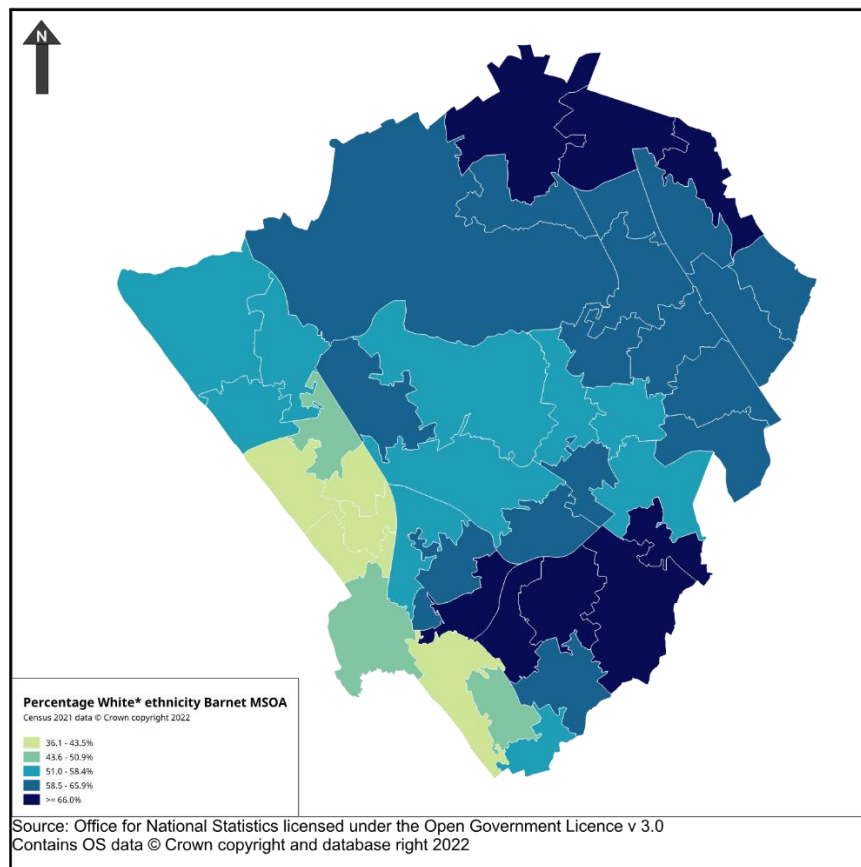
## Appendix

For guidance on writing about ethnicity in this briefing, we referred to the Gov.uk style guide which can be found here: [Writing about ethnicity - GOV.UK \(ethnicity-facts-figures.service.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/writing-about-ethnicity)

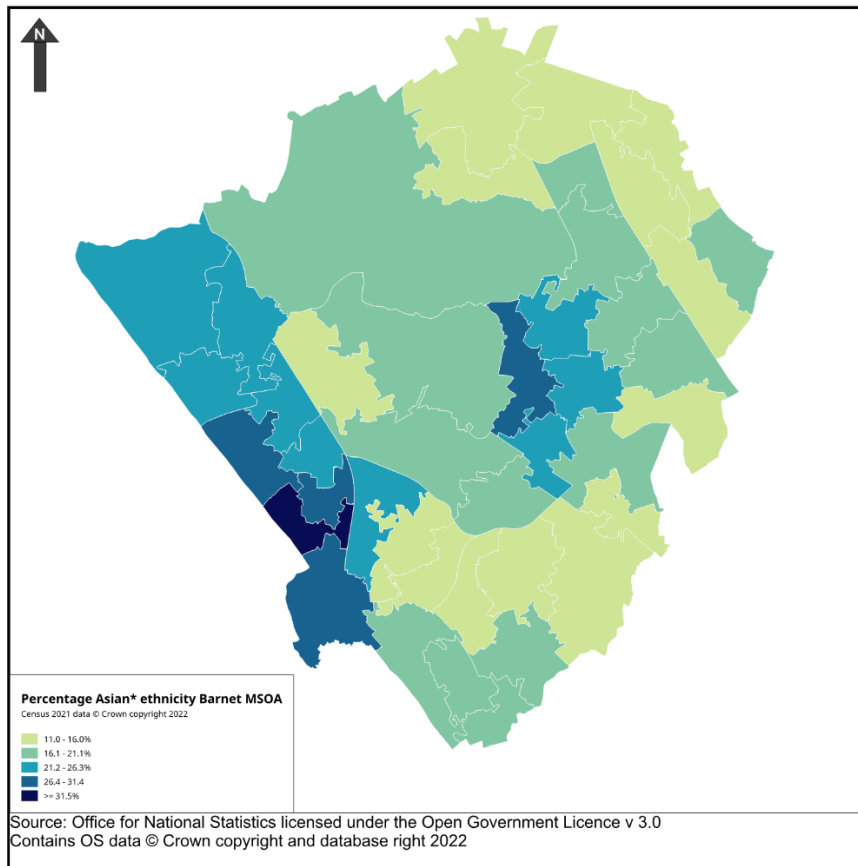
Middle Super Output Areas (MSOA) in Barnet showing concentrations of ethnicities by percentage of the total MSOA population, with light yellow being the lowest percentage and dark blue being the highest percentage.

\*Please note that due to spacing limitations on map keys, ethnic groups have been abbreviated.

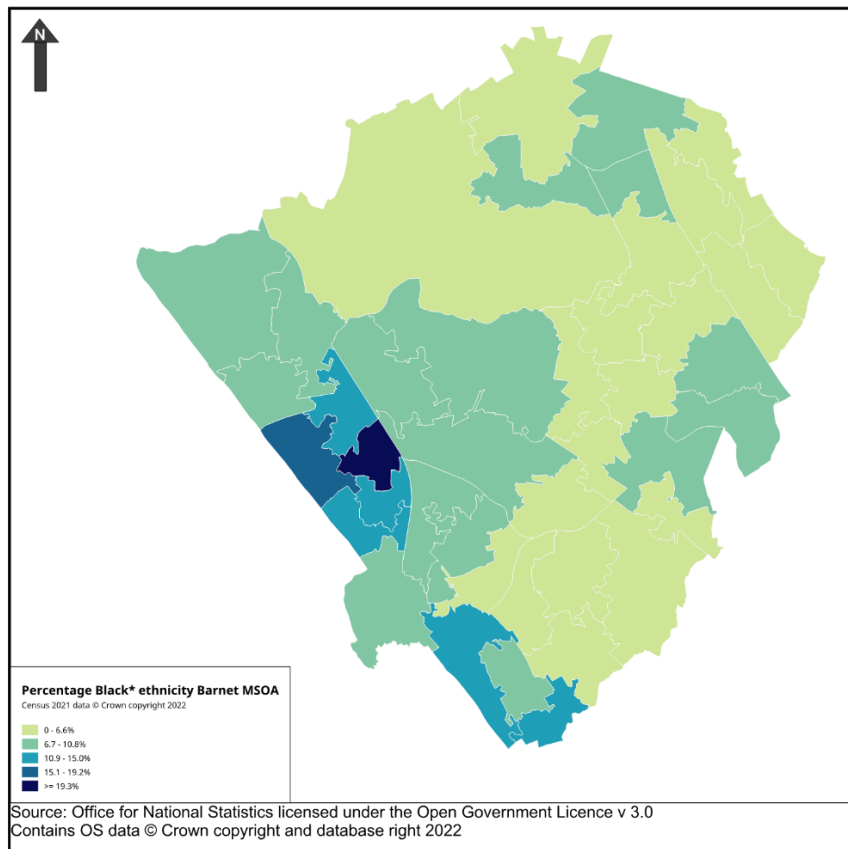
**Fig 1: Percentage of white or white British by Middle Super Output Area (MSOA)**



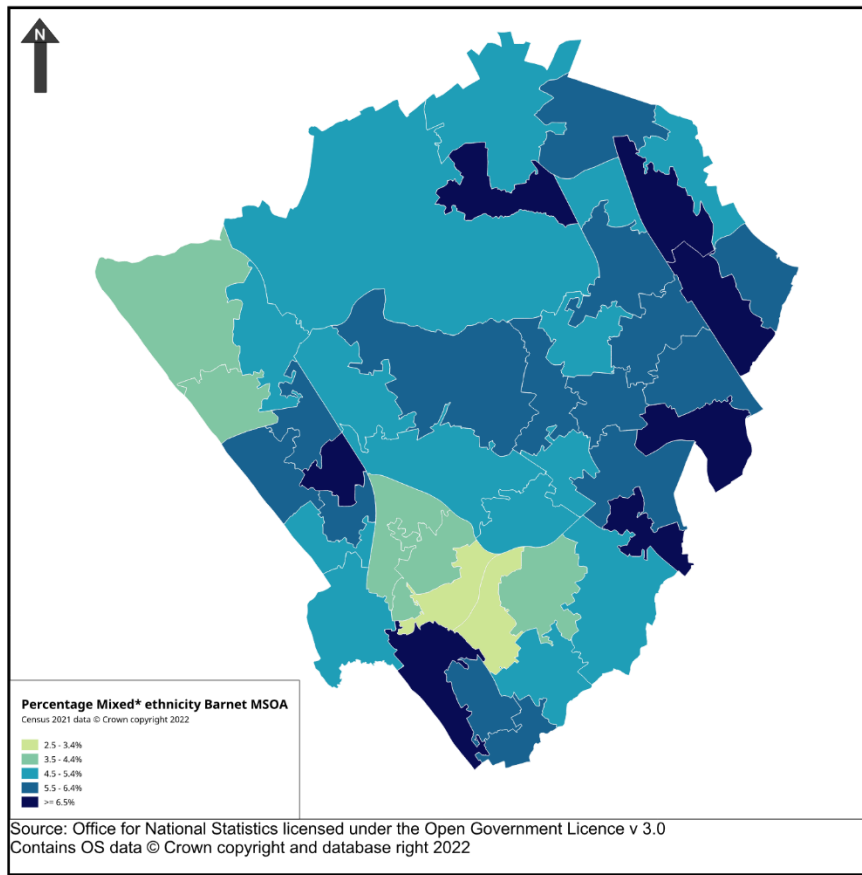
**Fig 2: Percentage of Asian or Asian British by Middle Super Output Area (MSOA)**



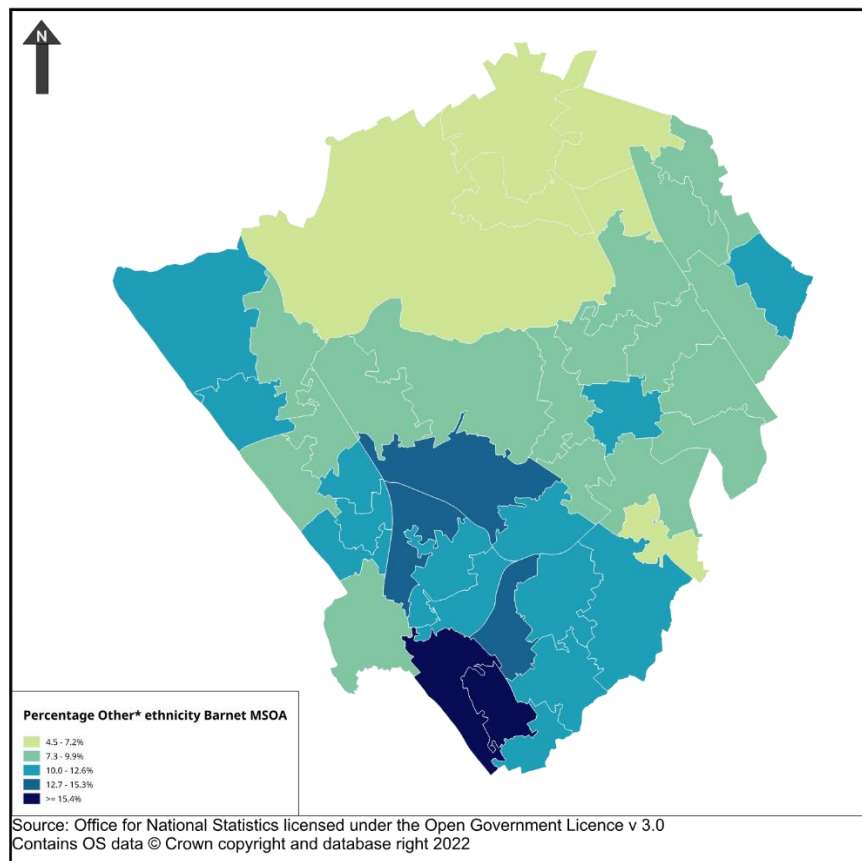
**Fig 3: Percentage of black or black British by Middle Super Output Area (MSOA)**



**Fig 4: Percentage of mixed of multiple ethnic groups by Middle Super Output Area (MSOA)**



**Fig 5: Percentage of other ethnic groups by Middle Super Output Area (MSOA)**



## Sources

Census 2021 Ethnicity: [Ethnic group, England and Wales - Office for National Statistics \(ons.gov.uk\)](https://ons.gov.uk)

Census 2021 Religion: [Religion, England and Wales - Office for National Statistics \(ons.gov.uk\)](https://ons.gov.uk)

Census 2021 Languages: [Language, England and Wales - Office for National Statistics \(ons.gov.uk\)](https://ons.gov.uk)