

## Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (SACRE)

Thursday 13 July 2023 at 5.00 pm

This will be held as an online meeting

### Membership:

**Chair:** Basma ElShayyal (Chair)

**Vice Chair:** Helen Mooney

**Adviser:** Nadia Nadeem

### Representatives of:

- Local Authority
- Church of England
- Brent's other faiths and denominations
- Teachers unions

**For further information contact:** Abby Shinhmar, Governance Officer  
Tel: 020 8937 2078; Email: Abby.Shinhmar@brent.gov.uk

**The SACRE meeting will be open for the public and press to attend as an online virtual meeting. The link to view the meeting live will be available [HERE](#)**

# Agenda

Item Page

**1 Welcome and Introductions**

**2 Election of Chair and Vice Chair**

To undertake the annual election of the SACRE Chair & Vice-Chair.

Members are asked to note that in accordance with the SACRE Constitution:

- The local authority has agreed not to exercise their right to appoint the Chair and Vice Chair, meaning the appointments will be a matter for SACRE to agree; and
- The appointment of Chair & Vice Chair will be for a one year term of office covering the 2023-24 academic year, with future elections to take place at the last SACRE meeting of each preceding academic year.

**3 Minutes of the previous meeting** 1 - 4

To consider and approve the minutes from the last SACRE meeting held on Thursday 9 February 2023.

**4 Determinations (if any) (SACRE agenda only)** 5 - 6

4.1 Members are asked to note that since the Agenda was published, a determination application has been received from The Stonebridge School, details attached, which Members are being asked to consider at the meeting.

4.2 To note the following school with an expired determination:

- Uxendon Manor School

**5 General SACRE & RE Update** 7 -23

Following consideration of the Brent summary 2021 census data relating to religion at the previous meeting a further summary has now been provided mapping Brents population by religion.

This has also been attached for SACREs information.

## **6 General NSACRE Update**

24 -26

To consider any current NASACRE updates.

Members are asked to note that the NASCRE Annual Conference took place on 22 May 2023. The key note address at the Conference was provided by Dr Kathryn Wright (Chief Executive Culham St Gabriels Trust). A summary of her keynote address has been attached for reference "An Education in religion and worldviews – the next 30 years"

## **7 Any Other Business**

### **7.1 Date of Future Meetings**

SACRE is asked to note the remaining programme of dates identified for meetings during the 2023-24 academic year, as follows:

- Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> October 2023 at 5pm.
- Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> February 2024 at 5pm.

These will be undertaken as online meetings, unless otherwise indicated.

**Date of the next meeting:            Wednesday 11 October 2023**

**MINUTES OF THE STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION  
 (SACRE)**

**Held as an online virtual meeting on Thursday 9 February 2023 at 5:00pm**

**Attendees (in remote attendance):**

<p><b>GROUP A</b>  <i>(A committee of persons representing such Christian denominations and other religions and denominations of such religions as, in the opinion of the authority, will appropriately reflect the principal religious traditions in the area)</i></p>	<p>Basma ElShayyal (Sunni Islam, Chair)          Sheralyn Snaith (Baha'i)          Sally Strauss (Judaism)          Michelle Goldsmith (Humanism)          Manhar Mehta (Jainism)</p>
<p><b>GROUP B</b>  <i>(A committee of persons representing the Church of England)</i></p>	<p>Steve Taylor (Church of England)</p>
<p><b>GROUP C</b>  <i>(A committee of persons representing such associations representing teachers as, in the opinion of the authority, ought to be represented, having regard to the circumstances of the area)</i></p>	<p>Helen Mooney (Vice Chair)          Ian Slade</p>
<p><b>GROUP D</b>  <i>(A committee of persons representing the authority)</i></p>	<p>Cllr Tazi Smith          Cllr Neil Nerva</p>
<p><b>In attendance:</b></p>	<p>Jen Haskew (Brent Council - Head of Setting and School Effectiveness Service)          Helen Tulloch (Brent Council – School Effectiveness Service)          Stacy Burman (RE Consultant)          James Kinsella &amp; Abby Shinhmar (Brent Council - Governance Team)</p>

**1. Welcome and Apologies**

The Chair noted apologies had been received from Lesley Prior (RE Adviser/Consultant to SACRE), John Roche and Kim Wilson (Membership Group C) along with Shaun Cremin.

**2. Minutes of the previous meeting and Matters Arising**

It was **AGREED** to approve the minutes of the previous SACRE meeting held on Thursday 6 October 2022.

### 3. **Determinations (if any)**

Basma ElShayyal, Chair, advised that there were two determinations to be considered at the meeting - Chalkhill Primary School and Oliver Goldsmith Primary School.

In considering the determination applications, SACRE noted:

- The wider context of collective worship within the determination process, given the key nature of common values identified between different religions across the diverse nature of Brent as a Borough, which could be reflected within the practice of collective worship. Given the nature of discussion at the meeting the Chair advised that she would be willing to continue these with any interested members, outside of the meeting.
- The ongoing statutory requirements in relation to the circumstances in which community, foundation or voluntary schools may require a determination. Whilst there was no specific requirement within the current application process for Brent schools to provide examples of how worship would be undertaken in practice if determinations were granted, NASACRE is currently working on additional guidance that would include the determination process and may reduce the number of applications required moving forward.
- In the meantime, SACRE recognised the good quality of the applications, which had been submitted for consideration.

Having considered the applications, it was therefore unanimously **RESOLVED** (with each of the four membership groups voting in favour) to approve and grant the renewal of the following determinations:

- (1) Chalkhill Primary School and
- (2) Oliver Goldsmith Primary School.

### 4. **Census Factsheet - Religion in Brent**

SACRE considered a summary factsheet detailing the results of the 2021 National Census pertaining to the different religions in Brent. SACRE noted:

- The insightful nature of the detail and key points outlined along with the relevance to the membership and operation of SACRE. In noting the breakdown by population, the Chair felt it would also be useful to receive an age breakdown by religion, including (if possible) by schools. **ACTION:** Jen Haskew agreed to gather this information to present at the next SACRE.
- The additional work being undertaken by the Council in regards to the breakdown of Census data by ward, which could also be shared with SACRE once available. **ACTION:** The Council's Policy Team to be invited to attend a future meeting in order to provide a further breakdown of key census data.

On this basis it was **AGREED** that SACRE note the Census Factsheet detailing the religious breakdown in Brent.

## 5. **LB Brent SACRE Annual Report 2020/21**

Stacey Burman (RE Consultant) introduced the item, which presented a final draft of the 2020-21 Annual Report.

In considering the draft report, members noted the updated information included in relation to the latest 2021 National Census illustrating the diversity of the borough as reflected within the current SACRE membership. In terms of the Annual Report SACRE noted:

- The updates required in relation to RE subject leader network meetings and training had been provided separately.
- As the Agreed Syllabus had now been approved, the link would need to be added to the report. It was also agreed that the link (once available) would be shared via the School Headteacher Bulletins after the upcoming half term break with the Chair, Stacy Burman & Jen Haskew to meet in order to review previous concerns regarding the content on the Best Brent website regarding different religions and to finalise plans for a syllabus launch event. **ACTION:** Jen Haskew

Members thanked everyone involved in preparing the report and as no additional comments were highlighted it was **RESOLVED** to approve the final draft of the 2020-21 Annual Report.

## 6. **General RE Update & NASACRE Briefing**

SACRE considered the latest NASACRE Briefing from February 2023 along with any general RE related updates.

In terms of a general update, Stacy Burman advised SACRE:

- Of the next NASACRE conference, which would be taking place on 22 May 2023 in London.
- That an FOI request had been submitted to all Local Authorities regarding SACRE funding and support. This was in support of work being undertaken by NASACRE jointly with the DFE to assess how much funding and support each SACRE received.
- The upcoming launch of a new website called The RE Hubs, a project being supported by all major national RE organisations, including the Association of RE Advisors and Consultants and the RE Council and universities. The website would detail places of worship for all religions, have access to resources, projects, information about SACRE's and an area dedicated to teachers' CPD, including those run by the Church of England. The website would be divided into DFE regions, with Brent under London. Teachers can find resources for teaching as well as details on training and faith speakers available to support teaching of the Agreed Syllabus curriculum in schools. Members of SACRE were being encouraged to view the website, which could also be used to share relevant materials.
- The release of a national survey conducted with parents on their attitudes on the teaching of world views and RE. In general, it was positive feedback gained from parents. It was agreed that the survey data could align with the data gathered for the Brent Census Factsheet with SACRE also noting the available links and access to Brent's Multi Faith Forum.

As no further issues were raised the Chair thanked Stacey Burman and it was **RESOLVED** to note the update provided.

## 7. **Any Other Business**

### 7.1 **Programme of dates for meetings during 2023/24**

SACRE considered and **AGREED** the provisional programme of dates identified for meetings during the 2023/24 academic year, as follows.

- Thursday 13 July 2023 at 5pm
- Wednesday 11 October 2023 at 5pm
- Thursday 8 February 2024 at 5pm

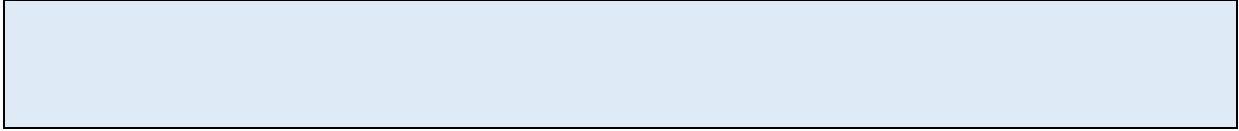
**Date of Next Meeting** – Thursday 13 July 2023 at 5:00pm

The meeting closed at 6:09pm

Basma ElShayyal  
**Chair**

<b>1. Name of School:</b>
The Stonebridge School
<b>2. Head Teacher:</b>
Ms Michelle Anderson
<b>3. Pupils to whom application applies:</b>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> This application applies to the whole school.
<b>4. Outline reasons for application:</b>
The school is very religiously and culturally diverse. In order to recognise the diverse beliefs that our children and their families hold, The Stonebridge School would like to continue with the Collective Worship that encompasses the wide range of faiths, belief system and traditions that the school has delivered for a number of years.
<b>5. Outline details of consultation with governors:</b>
The governors met on the 13.06.2023 and overwhelmingly voted to renew the application.
<b>6. Outline of details of consultation with parents:</b>
No parents objected within the timeframe.
<b>7. Outline of proposed provision for collective worship</b>
In class taught lessons, whole school assemblies and class assemblies.
<b>8. Signature of Head Teacher: Michelle Anderson</b>





# Brent Census Atlas | Religion

Brent's population by religion mapped (2021 Census)

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April 2023



BUILDING A  
BETTER BRENT

A decorative horizontal line with four colored segments: green, blue, purple, and orange.

# Introduction

This atlas maps the size of different religious groups across Brent. This complements recently published borough-level analysis about [Religion in Brent](#). Each map shows the percentage of the population belonging to each group across Brent's Lower layer Super Output Areas (LSOAs)\*. Figures are also shown for the borough's 22 wards in chart form. All data used to create the maps, charts and tables has been published alongside this atlas on the council's Brent Open Data site.

## About the data

- Religion question: The census question on religion was voluntary and asked: 'What is your religion?'. The answer categories comprised six named religions, a 'no religion' option, and an 'any other religion' write-in option. Around 7% of Brent respondents chose not to answer the question. All percentages that follow relate to the number who identified with a particular category as a percentage of the total population in that area.
- Data sources: [Ward figures](#) presented here were produced by the Greater London Authority (GLA), based on census counts at output area level from the Office for National Statistics (ONS). Where output areas are split over ward boundaries, data were apportioned to each ward based on the number of residential addresses in each area. The GLA's ward estimates differ slightly from published ONS ward figures, which were modelled using a different 'best-fit' methodology. Map data relate to LSOA census figures which are sourced directly from the ONS (via the [NOMIS](#) website).

16 What is your religion?  
↻ This question is voluntary

- No religion
- Christian (including Church of England, Catholic, Protestant and all other Christian denominations)
- Buddhist
- Hindu
- Jewish
- Muslim
- Sikh
- Any other religion, write in

Below the list is a grid of 12 empty boxes for writing in an answer.

- Copyright: ONS census statistics are licenced under the Open Government Licence v.3.0 © Crown Copyright. Ward estimates were created by the GLA Census Information Scheme using base data from the ONS licenced under the Open Government Licence v.3.0.
- Pandemic impacts: The 2021 census took place in March 2021 when a range of pandemic lockdown restrictions were still in place. It is likely that some residents were temporarily away at this time (e.g. students, furloughed and migrant workers). Census results need to be viewed in this context: as a snapshot of the population as at March 2021.

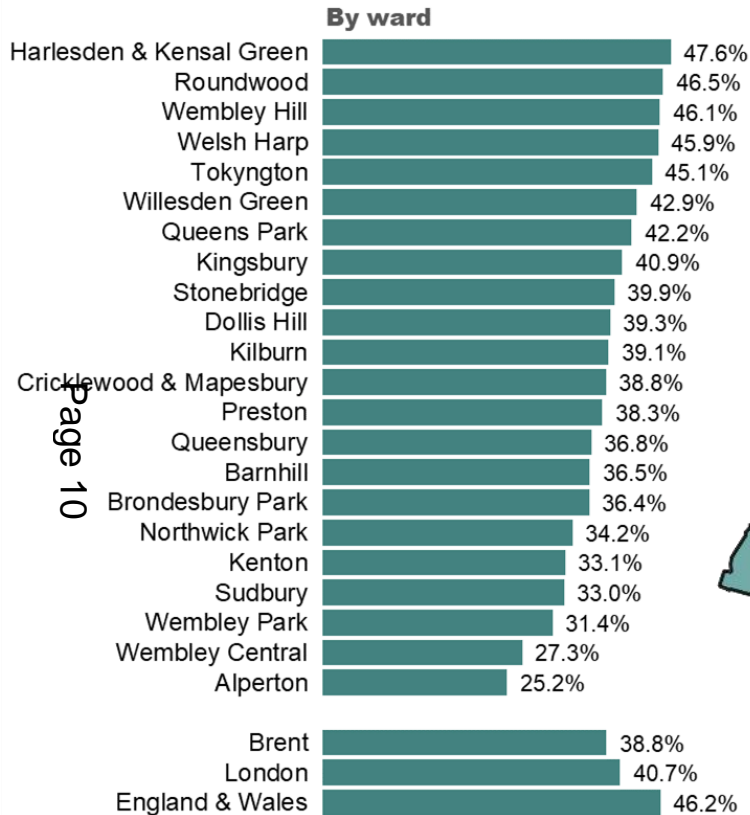
# Summary

Religious groups in Brent: wards with smallest and largest populations (% totals)

Group	Brent		Ward with lowest rate	Range	Ward with highest rate
	Number	% total			
Christian	131,914	39%	Alperton	25% - 48%	Harlesden & Kensal Green
Muslim	72,574	21%	Queens Park	9% - 36%	Stonebridge
Hindu	52,876	16%	Kilburn	2% - 46%	Wembley Central
Jewish	3,723	1%	Alperton	0% - 5%	Brondesbury Park
Buddhist	3,117	1%	Tokyington	1% - 2%	Sudbury
Sikh	1,530	0%	Dollis Hill	0% - 2%	Northwick Park
Other religion	4,424	1%	Kilburn	1% - 6%	Kenton
No religion	46,153	14%	Wembley Central	5% - 33%	Queens Park
Not stated	23,506	7%	Wembley Central	5% - 9%	Wembley Park

# Christian population

Christian population: % of population by ward and LSOA, Brent, 2021



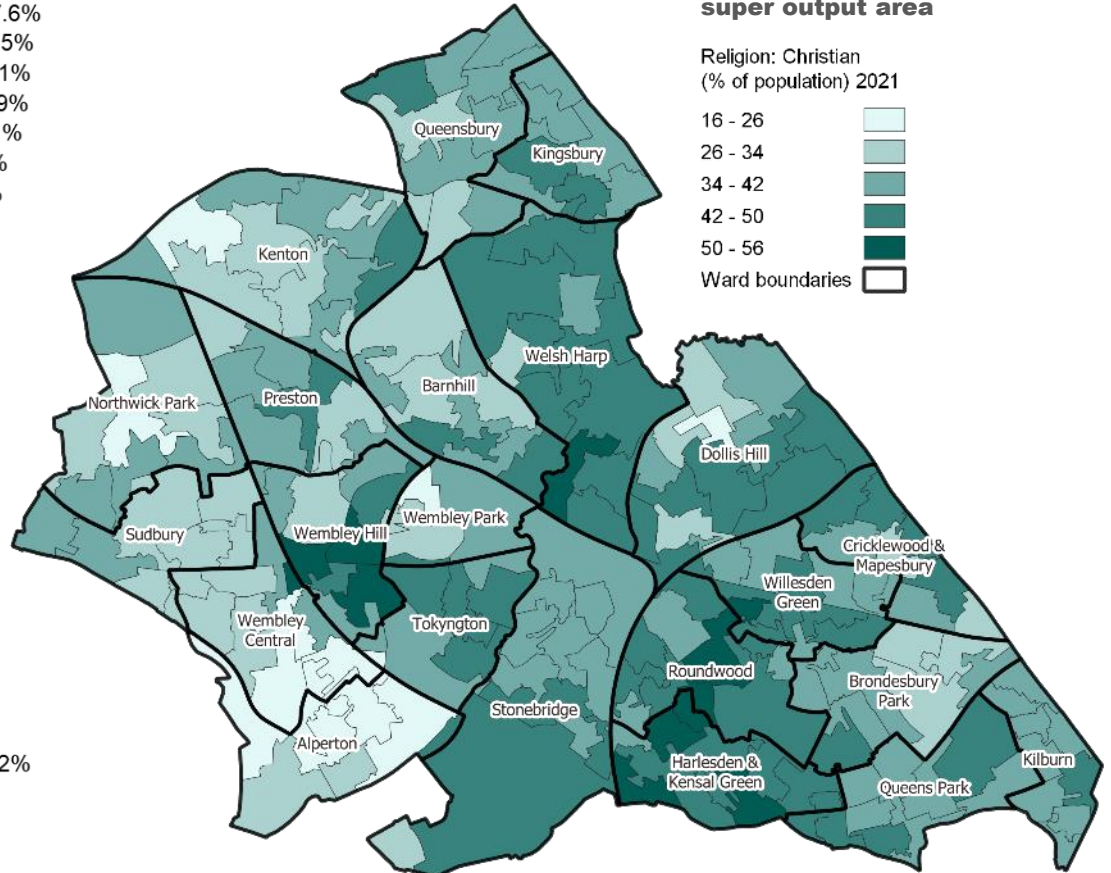
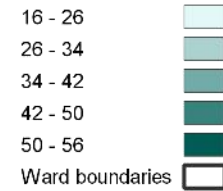
## Brent totals

Christian

<b>131,914</b> residents	<b>38.8%</b> of population
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## By lower layer super output area

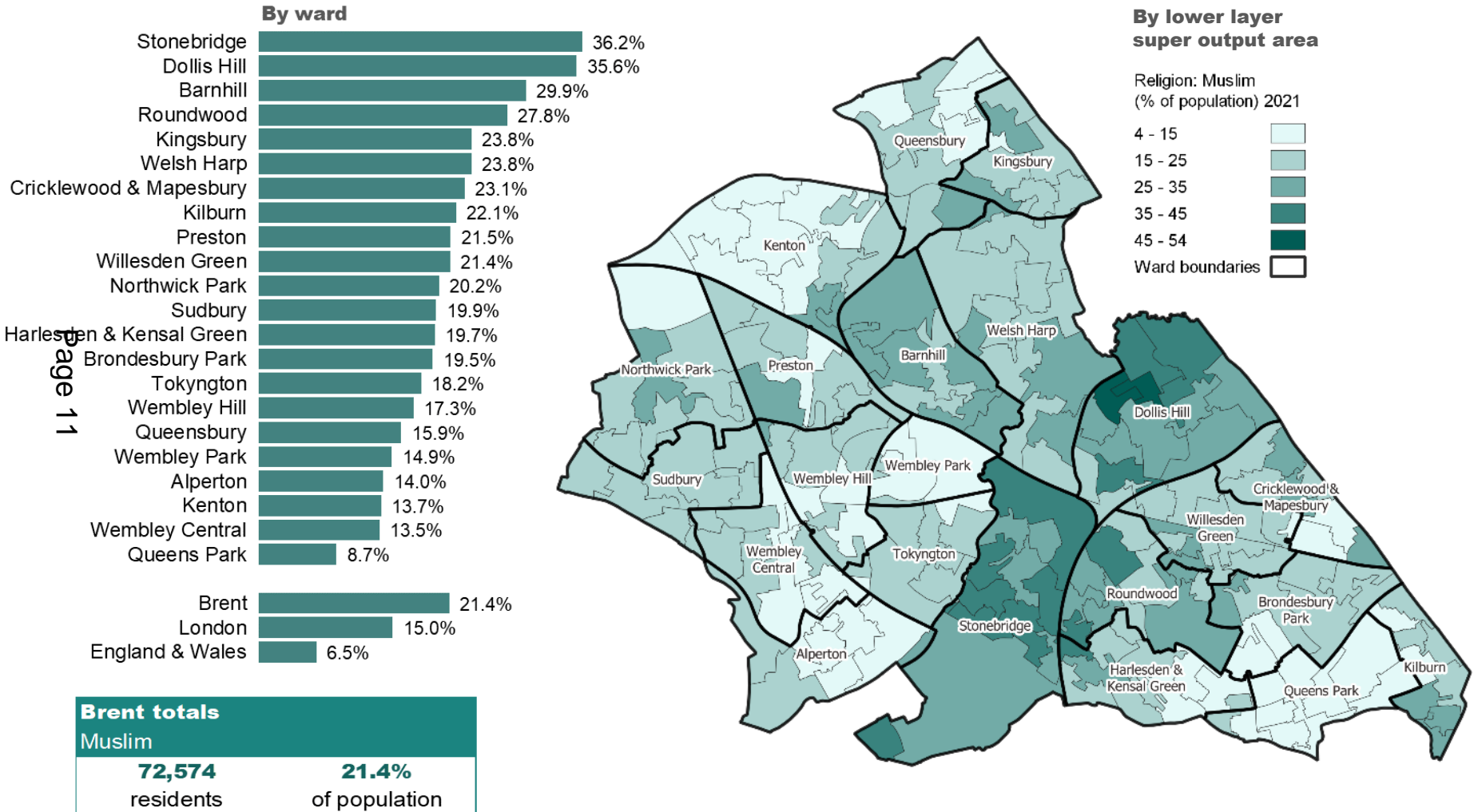
Religion: Christian  
(% of population) 2021



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# Muslim population

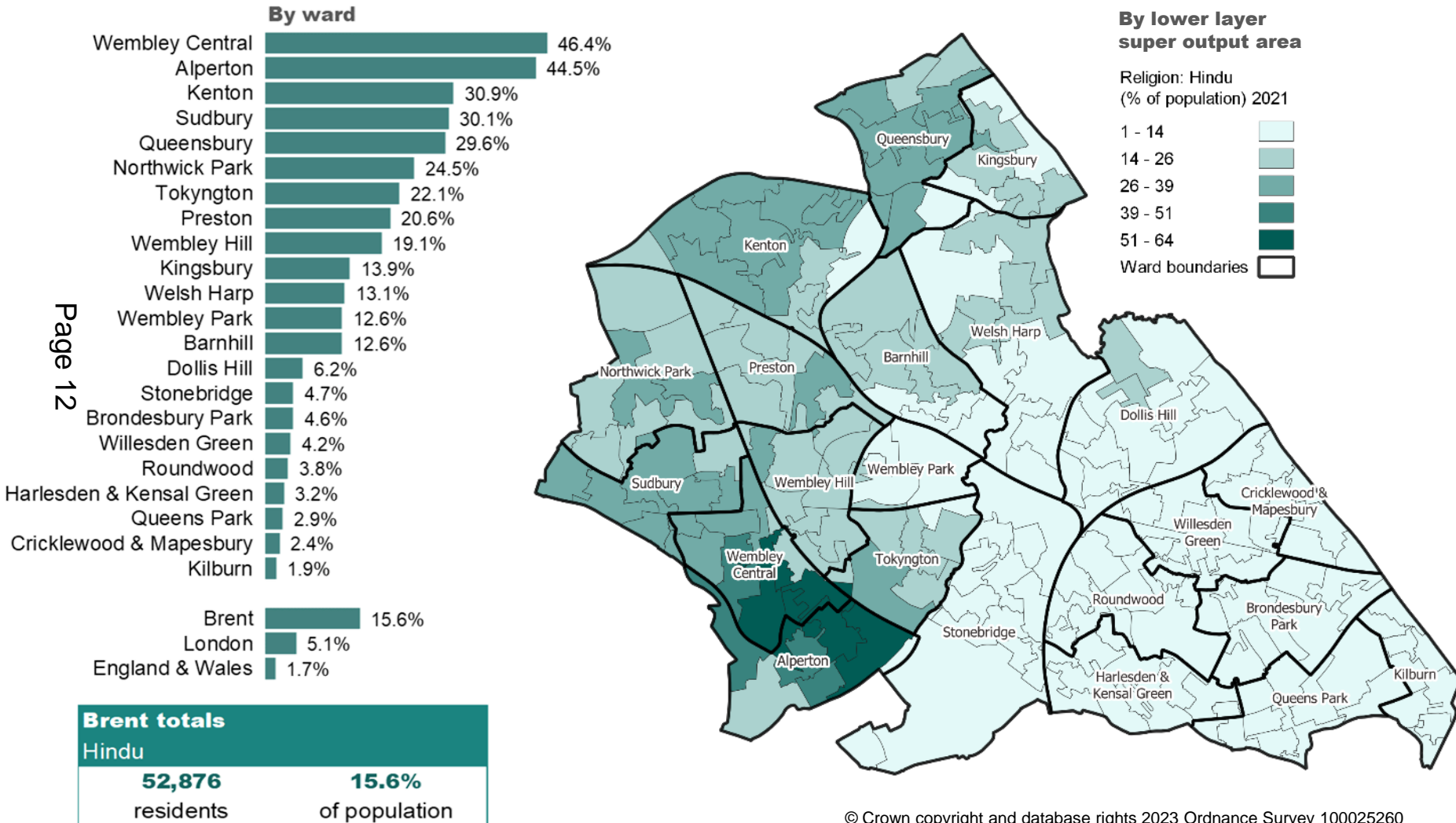
Muslim population: % of population by ward and LSOA, Brent, 2021



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# Hindu population

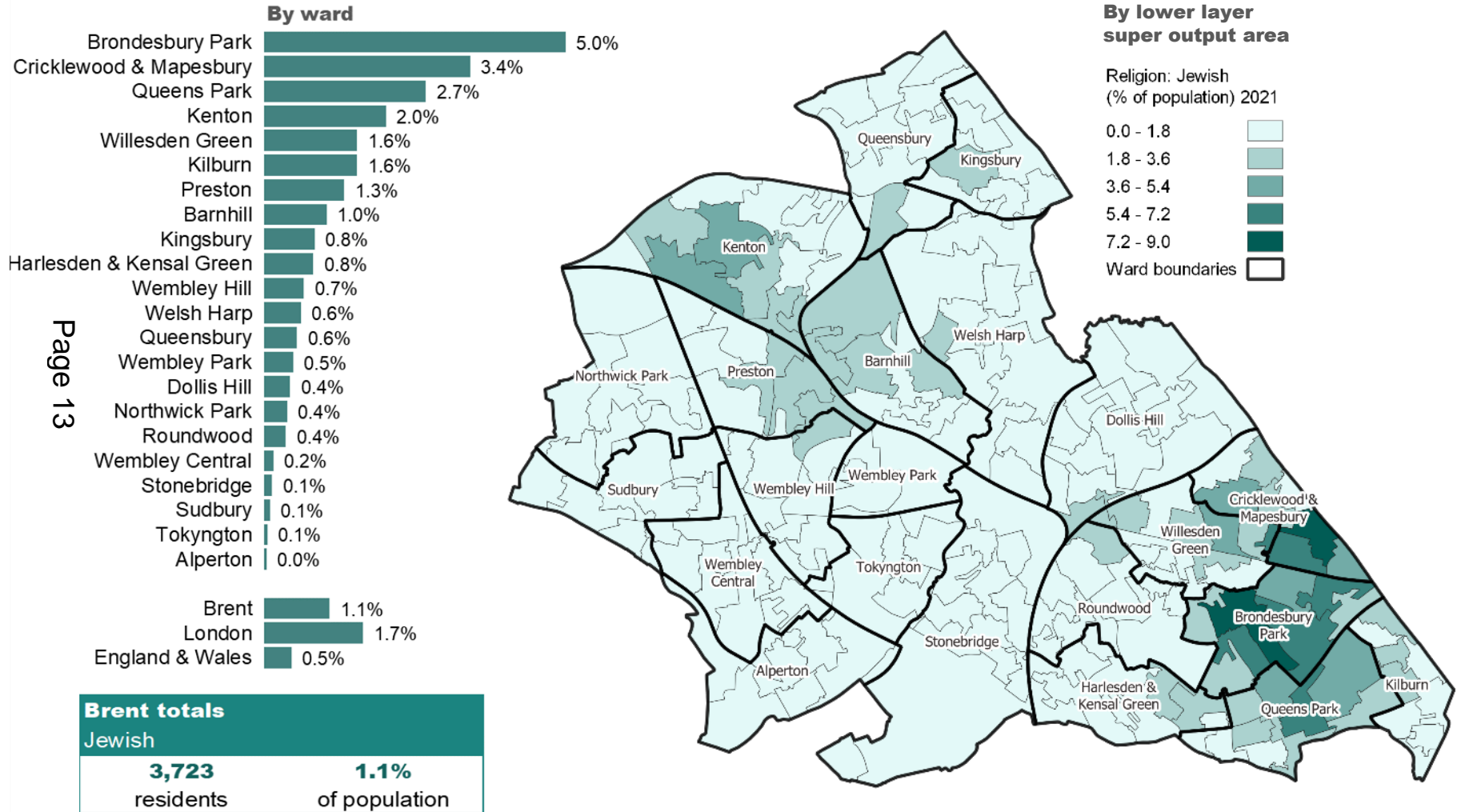
Hindu population: % of population by ward and LSOA, Brent, 2021



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# Jewish population

Jewish population: % of population by ward and LSOA, Brent, 2021

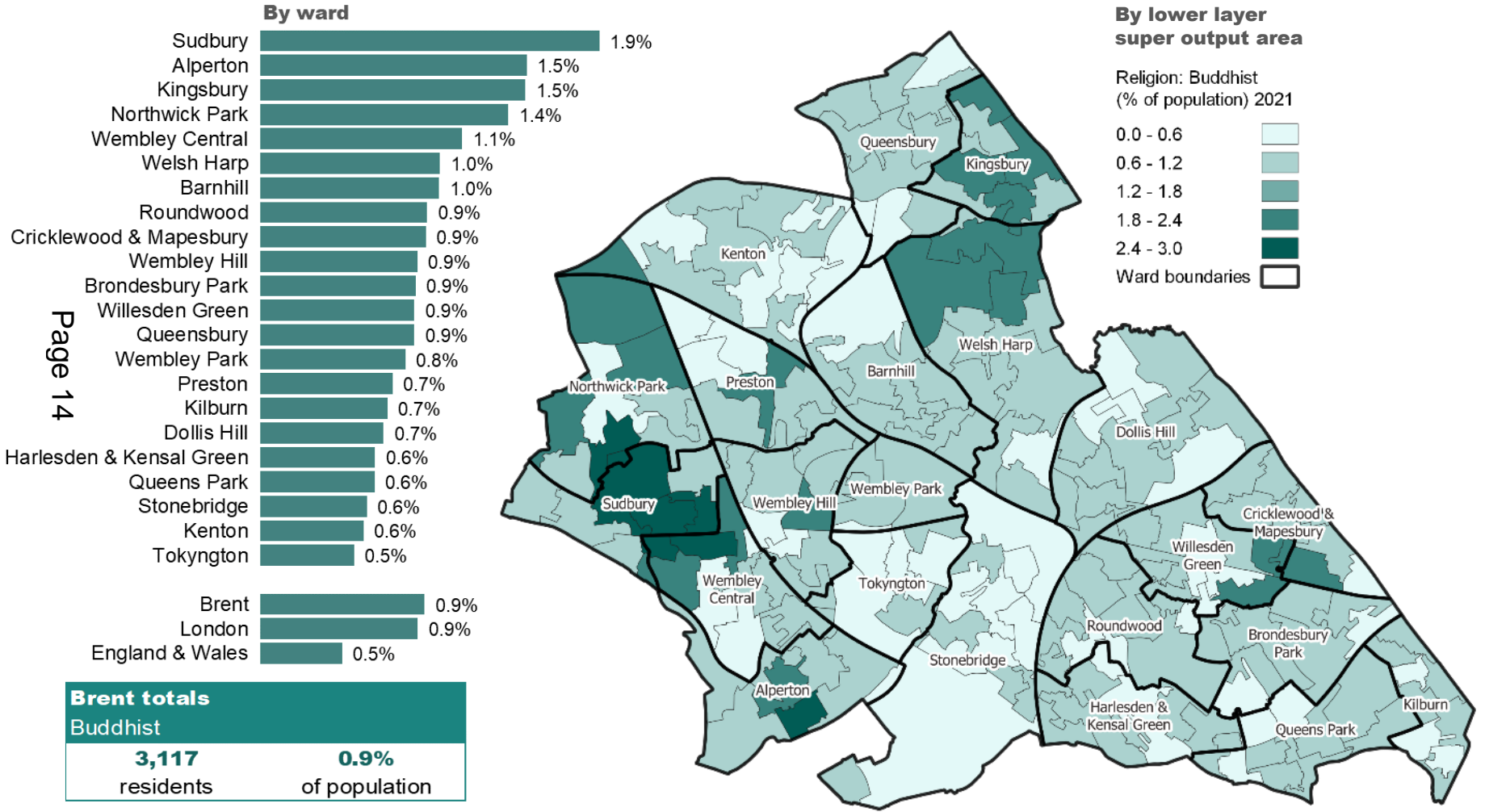


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# Buddhist population

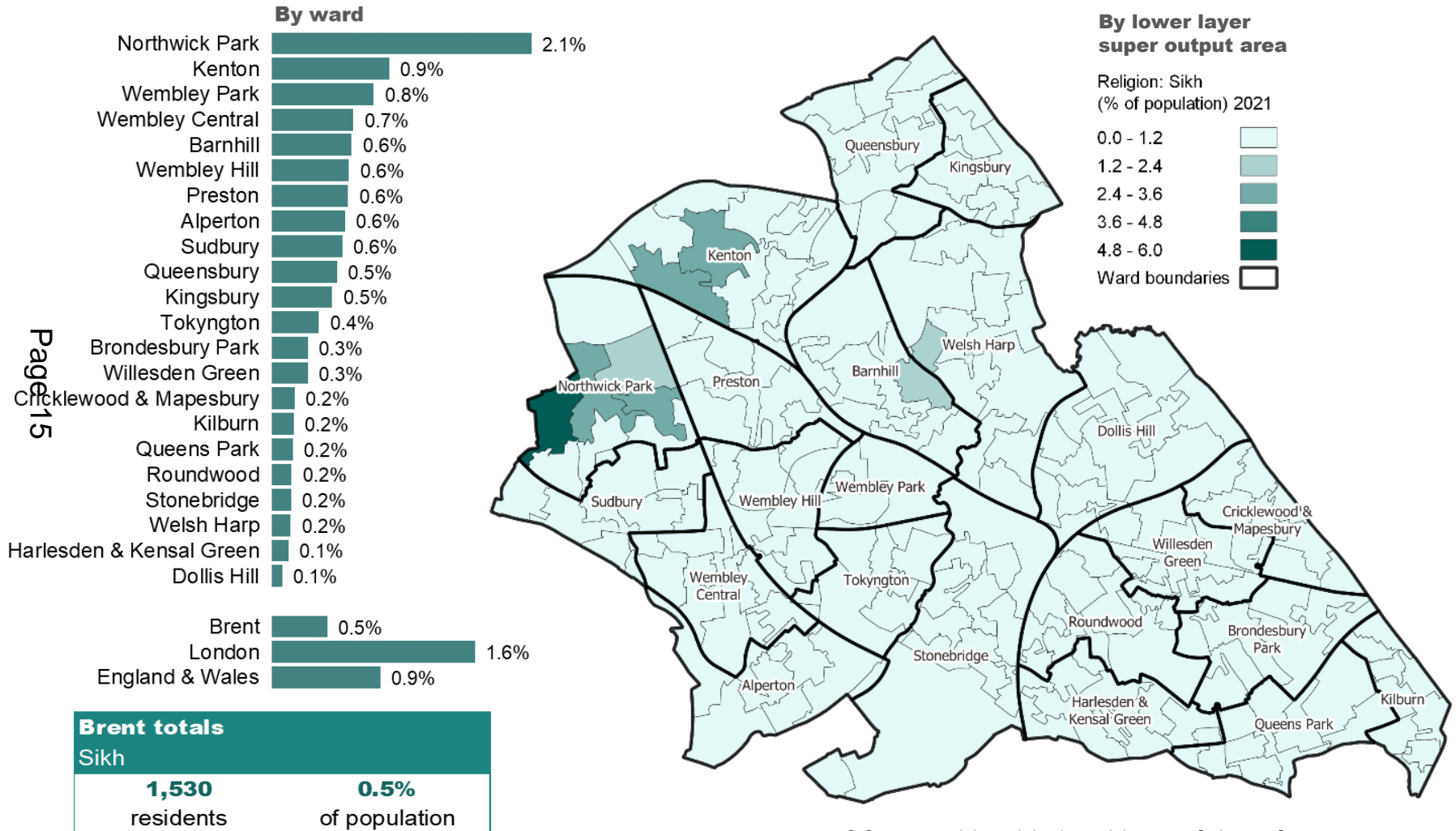
Buddhist population: % of population by ward and LSOA, Brent, 2021



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# Sikh population

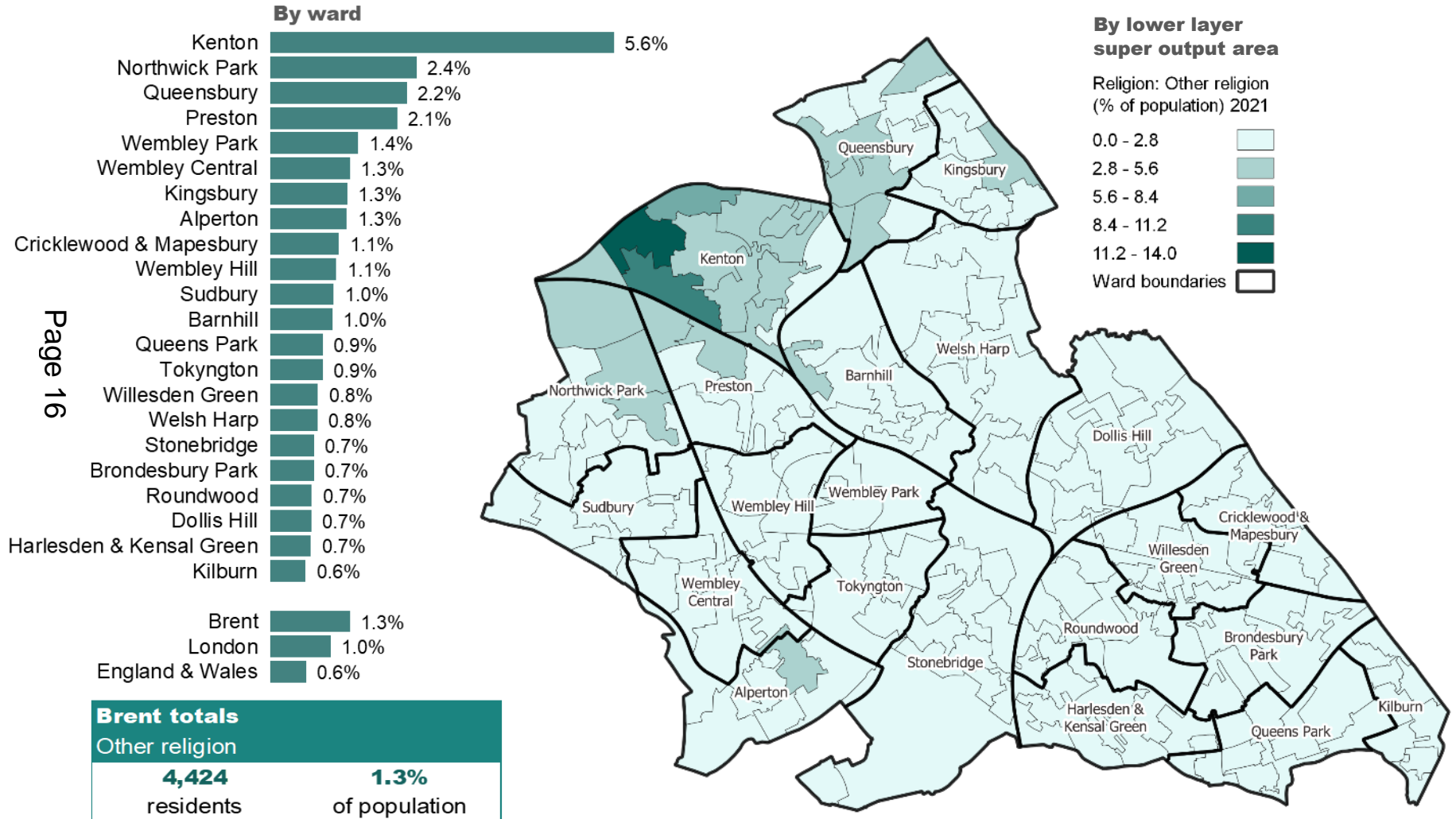
Sikh population: % of population by ward and LSOA, Brent, 2021



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# Other religions

## Other religions: % of population by ward and LSOA, Brent, 2021

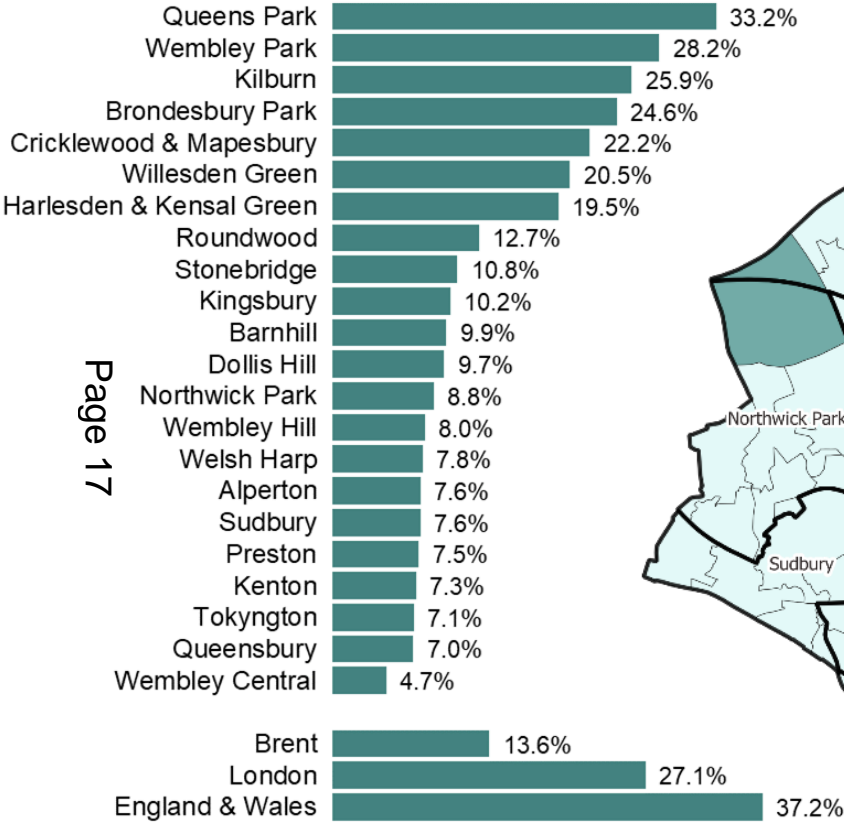


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# No religion

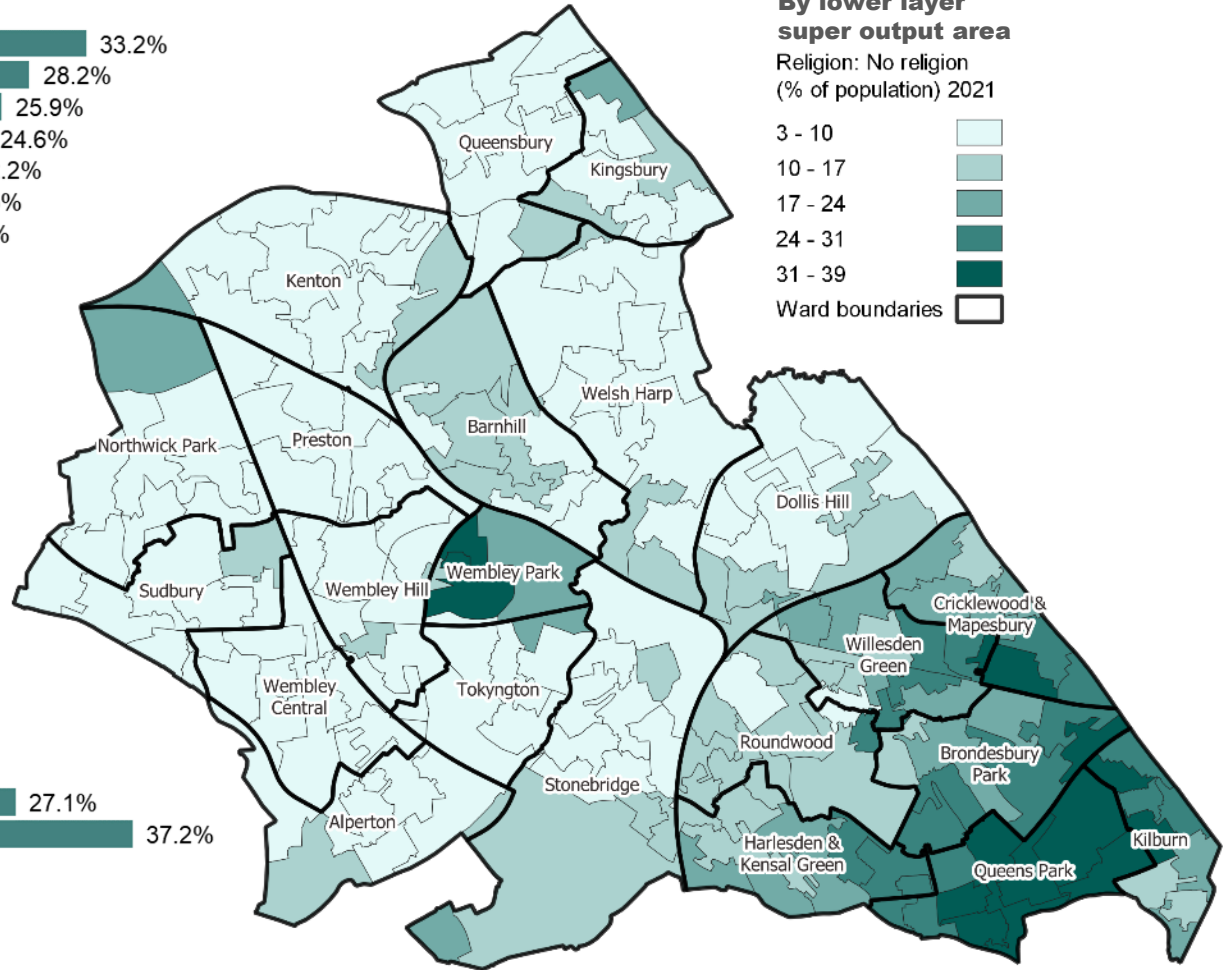
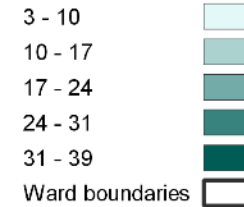
No religion: % of population by ward and LSOA, Brent, 2021

## By ward



## By lower layer super output area

Religion: No religion  
(% of population) 2021



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## Brent totals

No religion

**46,153**

residents

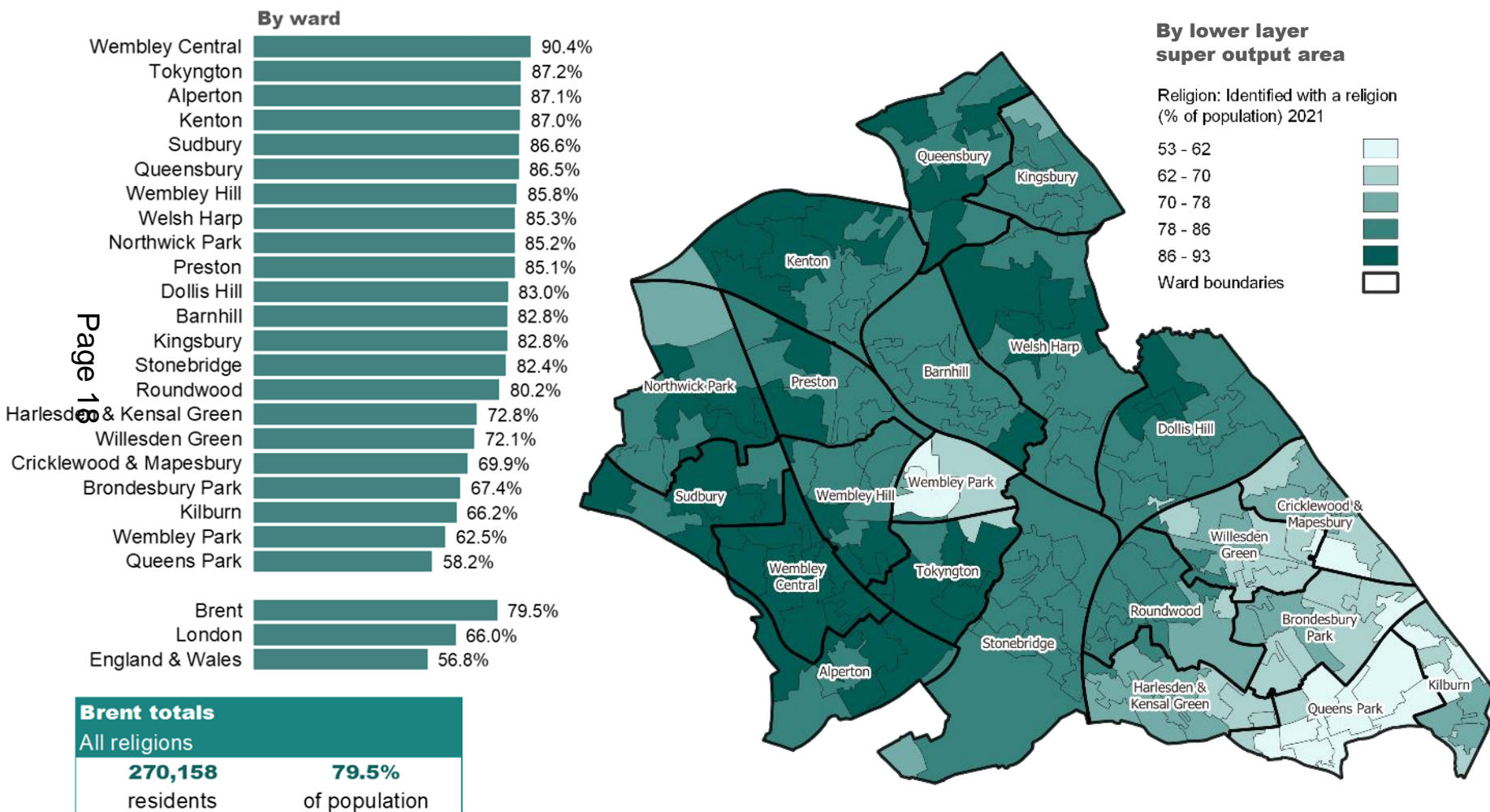
**13.6%**

of population

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# All religions: Total who identified with a religion

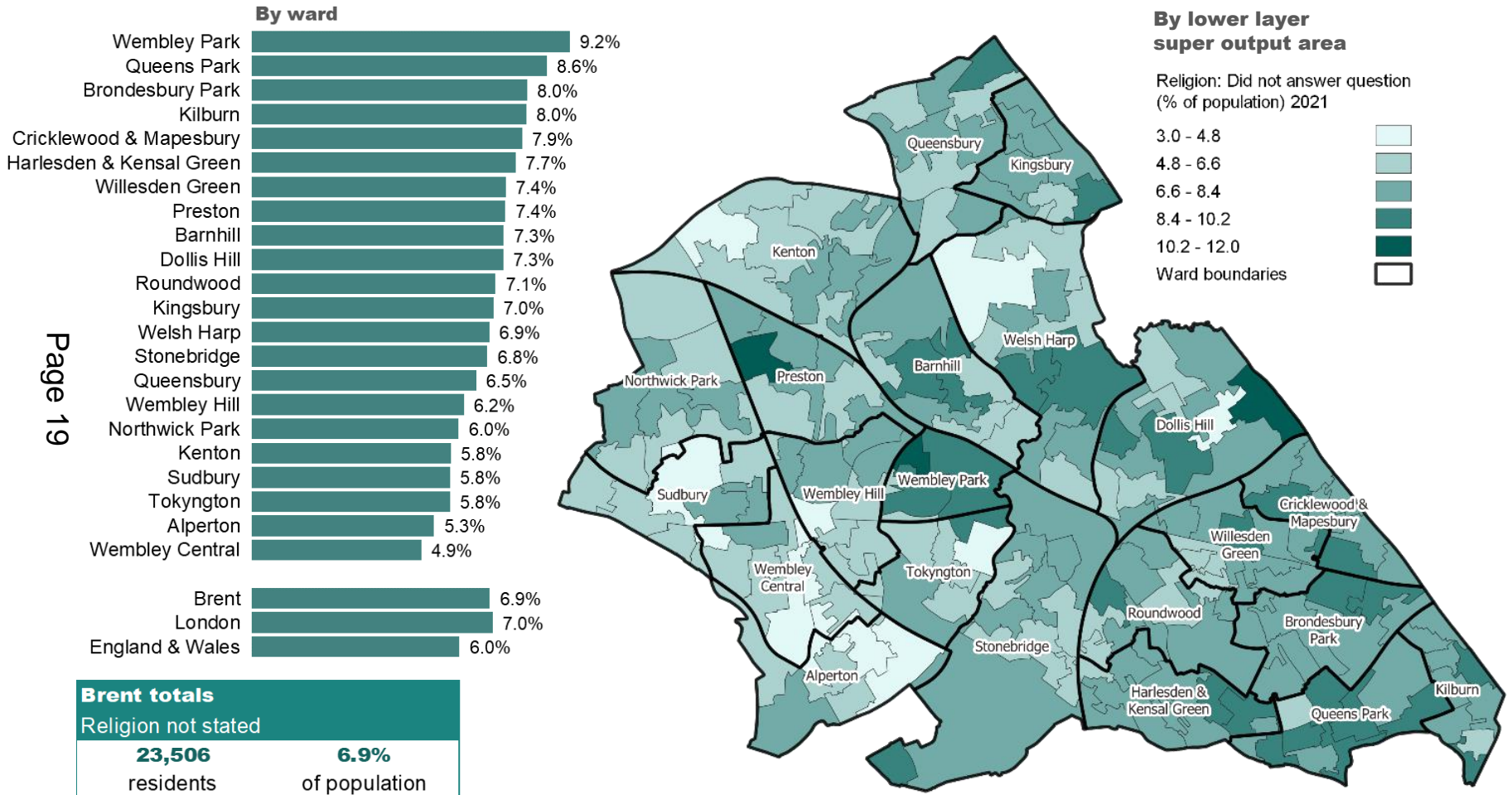
All with a religion: % of population by ward and LSOA, Brent, 2021



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# Not stated: did not answer religion question

Religion not stated: % of population by ward and LSOA, Brent, 2021

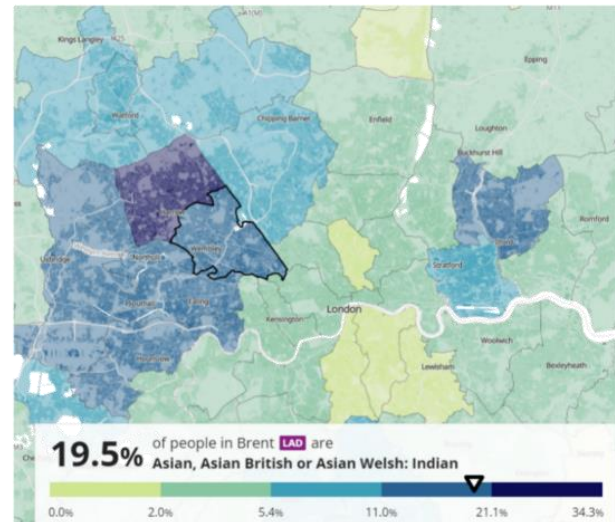


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# Further information

- **2021 Census data:** 2021 Census topic summary datasets can be found on the [NOMIS website](#). NOMIS also provides access to statistics from previous censuses.
- **GLA ward data:** Ward-based census estimates from the GLA for 2021 and 2011 can be accessed via [GLA datastore](#). The GLA has also produced a [London Census Explorer](#) mapping tool which allows exploration of census data at ward and LSOA level across London.
- **ONS mapping tool:** ONS has produced an interactive [mapping tool](#) which allows exploration of the data for a range of census indicators across local authority areas, and for output areas, across England & Wales.
- **Brent Open Data:** For other census reports about Brent see the [Brent Open Data census page](#). More information about religion in Brent can be found in the census factsheet: [Religion in Brent](#).
- **Contact:** This report was produced by Brent Council's Data and Insight team. For more information please email the team at: [open.data@brent.gov.uk](mailto:open.data@brent.gov.uk)

## ONS mapping tool



<https://www.ons.gov.uk/census/maps>

# Appendix tables



# Table 1. Religion by ward (counts)

## 1. Population estimates by religion, Brent Wards, 2021 Census (GLA estimates)

Ward name	TOTAL	Christian	Muslim	Hindu	Jewish	Buddhist	Sikh	Other religion	No religion	Religion not stated	All religions
Alperton	15,000	3,785	2,094	6,673	6	223	89	188	1,147	795	13,058
Barnhill	11,414	4,171	3,415	1,441	119	114	74	116	1,128	836	9,450
Brondesbury Park	13,617	4,963	2,652	629	683	118	40	97	3,346	1,089	9,182
Cricklewood & Mapesbury	13,974	5,416	3,224	336	480	129	26	157	3,108	1,098	9,768
Dollis Hill	21,651	8,514	7,707	1,343	95	149	19	145	2,095	1,584	17,972
Harlesden & Kensal Green	20,111	9,576	3,971	641	165	129	27	134	3,926	1,542	14,643
Kenton	17,694	5,864	2,429	5,472	359	102	168	992	1,285	1,023	15,386
Kilburn	17,206	6,729	3,808	327	267	122	31	100	4,449	1,373	11,384
Kingsbury	11,419	4,676	2,721	1,591	96	169	56	144	1,164	802	9,453
Northwick Park	12,131	4,147	2,452	2,975	47	168	255	290	1,067	730	10,334
Princes	12,443	4,762	2,674	2,564	166	92	77	258	933	917	10,593
Queens Park	17,101	7,225	1,492	498	461	109	29	147	5,674	1,466	9,961
Queensbury	16,871	6,203	2,690	4,989	93	145	89	377	1,185	1,100	14,586
Roundwood	16,650	7,742	4,630	629	61	155	27	113	2,113	1,180	13,357
Stonebridge	20,185	8,047	7,311	942	27	120	32	145	2,179	1,382	16,624
Sudbury	13,794	4,553	2,742	4,157	14	261	79	143	1,050	795	11,949
Tokyngton	9,911	4,466	1,802	2,190	6	52	38	85	701	571	8,639
Welsh Harp	18,227	8,359	4,341	2,384	112	183	28	140	1,422	1,258	15,547
Wembley Central	18,008	4,912	2,433	8,347	28	203	119	235	844	887	16,277
Wembley Hill	15,534	7,161	2,694	2,973	103	136	97	168	1,244	958	13,332
Wembley Park	7,641	2,402	1,138	965	37	62	63	110	2,158	706	4,777
Willesden Green	19,182	8,237	4,109	812	298	165	56	150	3,940	1,415	13,827
Brent (*)	339,817	131,914	72,574	52,876	3,723	3,117	1,530	4,424	46,153	23,506	270,158
London	8,799,728	3,577,681	1,318,754	453,034	145,466	77,425	144,543	86,759	2,380,404	615,662	5,803,662
England & Wales	59,597,540	27,522,672	3,868,133	1,032,775	271,327	272,508	524,140	348,334	22,162,062	3,595,589	33,839,889

Sources: 1. Ward figures: Greater London Authority Census Information Scheme. 2. Brent, London and E&W data: ONS, 2021 Census (Table TS030).  
 (\*) GLA ward estimates may not sum exactly to the Brent totals shown above (which are published totals for Brent sourced directly from ONS).

# Table 2. Religion by ward (rates)

## 2. Percentage of population by religion, Brent Wards, 2021 Census (GLA estimates)

Ward name	TOTAL	Christian	Muslim	Hindu	Jewish	Buddhist	Sikh	Other religion	No religion	Religion not stated	All religions
Alperton	100%	25.2%	14.0%	44.5%	0.0%	1.5%	0.6%	1.3%	7.6%	5.3%	87.1%
Barnhill	100%	36.5%	29.9%	12.6%	1.0%	1.0%	0.6%	1.0%	9.9%	7.3%	82.8%
Brondesbury Park	100%	36.4%	19.5%	4.6%	5.0%	0.9%	0.3%	0.7%	24.6%	8.0%	67.4%
Cricklewood & Mapesbury	100%	38.8%	23.1%	2.4%	3.4%	0.9%	0.2%	1.1%	22.2%	7.9%	69.9%
Dollis Hill	100%	39.3%	35.6%	6.2%	0.4%	0.7%	0.1%	0.7%	9.7%	7.3%	83.0%
Harlesden & Kensal Green	100%	47.6%	19.7%	3.2%	0.8%	0.6%	0.1%	0.7%	19.5%	7.7%	72.8%
Kenton	100%	33.1%	13.7%	30.9%	2.0%	0.6%	0.9%	5.6%	7.3%	5.8%	87.0%
Kilburn	100%	39.1%	22.1%	1.9%	1.6%	0.7%	0.2%	0.6%	25.9%	8.0%	66.2%
Kingsbury	100%	40.9%	23.8%	13.9%	0.8%	1.5%	0.5%	1.3%	10.2%	7.0%	82.8%
Northwick Park	100%	34.2%	20.2%	24.5%	0.4%	1.4%	2.1%	2.4%	8.8%	6.0%	85.2%
Preston	100%	38.3%	21.5%	20.6%	1.3%	0.7%	0.6%	2.1%	7.5%	7.4%	85.1%
Queens Park	100%	42.2%	8.7%	2.9%	2.7%	0.6%	0.2%	0.9%	33.2%	8.6%	58.2%
Queensbury	100%	36.8%	15.9%	29.6%	0.6%	0.9%	0.5%	2.2%	7.0%	6.5%	86.5%
Roundwood	100%	46.5%	27.8%	3.8%	0.4%	0.9%	0.2%	0.7%	12.7%	7.1%	80.2%
Stonebridge	100%	39.9%	36.2%	4.7%	0.1%	0.6%	0.2%	0.7%	10.8%	6.8%	82.4%
Sudbury	100%	33.0%	19.9%	30.1%	0.1%	1.9%	0.6%	1.0%	7.6%	5.8%	86.6%
Tokyington	100%	45.1%	18.2%	22.1%	0.1%	0.5%	0.4%	0.9%	7.1%	5.8%	87.2%
Welsh Harp	100%	45.9%	23.8%	13.1%	0.6%	1.0%	0.2%	0.8%	7.8%	6.9%	85.3%
Wembley Central	100%	27.3%	13.5%	46.4%	0.2%	1.1%	0.7%	1.3%	4.7%	4.9%	90.4%
Wembley Hill	100%	46.1%	17.3%	19.1%	0.7%	0.9%	0.6%	1.1%	8.0%	6.2%	85.8%
Wembley Park	100%	31.4%	14.9%	12.6%	0.5%	0.8%	0.8%	1.4%	28.2%	9.2%	62.5%
Willesden Green	100%	42.9%	21.4%	4.2%	1.6%	0.9%	0.3%	0.8%	20.5%	7.4%	72.1%
Brent	100%	38.8%	21.4%	15.6%	1.1%	0.9%	0.5%	1.3%	13.6%	6.9%	79.5%
London	100%	40.7%	15.0%	5.1%	1.7%	0.9%	1.6%	1.0%	27.1%	7.0%	66.0%
England & Wales	100%	46.2%	6.5%	1.7%	0.5%	0.5%	0.9%	0.6%	37.2%	6.0%	56.8%

Sources: 1. Ward figures: Greater London Authority Census Information Scheme. 2. Brent, London and E&W data: ONS, 2021 Census (Table TS030).

**Summary Transcript of Keynote by Kathryn Wright**  
**NASACRE AGM and Conference**  
**Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2023**

**A quick retrospective – my 30 years with SACREs**

My first engagement with SACREs took place around 1991 when my own RE Teacher, who was on Kent SACRE talked about their role and asked us as 6<sup>th</sup> Formers what we thought about the curriculum. In 1994-5, whilst training to teach, we learnt about SACREs, in particular about Birmingham as that is where I was based at the time. In 1997 I joined Newham SACRE as a teacher representative and called on the local authority to support further the professional development of teachers. After a brief spell in Redbridge where I was a teacher representative on the Agreed Syllabus Conference working group, I returned to be adviser to Newham SACRE from 2001 2005. In 2007 I became adviser to Norfolk SACRE, and then subsequently became a member of the SACRE and worked with a team of teachers to develop the Agreed Syllabus in 2018-19. Currently, I don't actually sit on a SACRE, but it is always a pleasure to engage with NASACRE at events like today.

**Strengthening Voices**

NASACRE has four aims, and I have drawn how here what I see as four key words - strengthening, supporting, representing and celebrating.

Firstly, strengthening voices, and the value of multiple perspectives. SACREs give voices to communities and to teachers. In my own journey, as a young teacher, I was given a voice on SACRE, talking about the need for professional development and networking. As a result I worked with SACRE to apply to what was then St Gabriel's Trust for funding! So CSTG and SACREs have always gone hand in hand to me! The CSTG leadership programme is supporting several teachers who are on and in some cases chair local SACREs. Some are here today! We've funded several projects with SACREs including Cumbria SACRE – voices project- which utilizes the local voice.

**Supporting Innovation**

As a young teacher I was part of an Agreed Syllabus Conference that innovated – under the steady hand of Dr Bill Gent. We reviewed some proposed new 'levels' from QCDA, and thought long and hard about pedagogy together. This tradition of innovation has had a huge impact across the country. To name just a few – Hampshire Living Difference, Birmingham Dispositions, Norfolk Disciplinary... there are many more... some have huge local impact, others having wider national and international recognition. SACREs are places of innovation...

**Representing the community**

NASACRE has done a great job at representing the RE community - locally, regionally and nationally. It has contributed to the vibrancy of the subject that I believe exists in many places across our nation. NASACRE has also contributed to many different initiatives that CSTG have developed in partnership over the last few years including RExChange and our leadership programme. It has also been a strong voice within the new RE Hubs initiative showing how SACREs can work with hub leads to engage different stakeholders.

### **Celebrating an education in religion and worldviews**

Agreed Syllabus launches are one of my favorite things! They are such great occasions to showcase the great work of SACREs, teachers and pupils in a local area. I have the privilege of speaking at the launch of the new Cambridgeshire, Peterborough and Rutland one in a few week's time. However, there are many other ways in which SACREs in the last 30 years have celebrated an education in religion and worldviews – festivals, competitions, conferences, publications, innovative projects... Living out the vision of RE – to help young people navigate our complex multi religious, multi secular world. We do this in SACREs! We should be celebrating!

So, in the next 30 years do we need more of the same or do we need to change...

I want to suggest both...Clearly we want to continue strengthening, supporting, representing and celebrating, but how we do this might change... I see challenges and opportunities ahead....

### **Strengthening Partnerships**

There are challenges and opportunities in our current context. Multi Academy Trusts are growing in strength and number. Many are taking very seriously their responsibilities for RE. Last term AREIAC and NATRE hosted an online event for MAT RE leads, the numbers signing up to attend were interesting- there were a lot, and there will be more. We need to work with Trusts, learning from their expertise and sharing ours with them. We can strengthen relationships with government too, the recent Colin Bloom report opens up opportunities for discussion with officials for example. I am aware of some controversies around its content, but one thing is clear in it, he wants to strengthen the position of an education in religion and worldviews. That is something we must utilize together. Partnering with other organizations locally and nationally to support an education in religion and worldviews particularly to promote good community relations is vital. The Religion Media Centre Creating Connections initiative has already been to five cities, and more are planned in the Autumn – its time for SACREs to join in!!

### **Supporting Understanding**

I've referred a lot to an education in religion and worldviews. Personally I don't mind what we call the subject, in law of course it is still religious education. However, I do think we need to take very seriously our approach to the subject in the next few years. I have spoken elsewhere about this, so won't repeat it at length here. However, in summary, I think we can deepen our understanding of a religion and worldviews approach, and by this I mean two things...

A pedagogical emphasis on – hermeneutics, intellectual humility, reflexivity, critical interpretation and understanding of positionality. AND

A curriculum framing which takes seriously lived authentic experience, diversity of belief and practice, continuity and change, context and different ways of knowing.

For me the new approach is about both a pedagogical and a curriculum turn.

### **Representing the religion and worldviews community**

Recruitment, recruitment, recruitment. This may have been our mantra for the last 30 years too, but it is far more acute now than ever before. The government recently increased the target for

recruitment for September, and it is likely that this year we will only recruit half of the teachers required. NASACRE, and individual SACREs, are already using their lobbying power on this, working with other organisations. We must keep up the pressure for a bursary, but also for funded ongoing support for teachers of RE too. Many in the RE community are using a shorthand for this – we need a government funded National Plan.

We can also support understanding of the importance of Freedom of Religion or Belief (FoRB) which is also highlighted in the recent Bloom Review. SACREs are a great place to promote this, and to live it out! This is something that in the next few years will, I think, become increasingly important in the public square. CSTG is developing work with primary schools in this area which we hope to share later this year.

### **Celebrations should continue!**

Public perception is actually good. The two CSTG commissioned surveys have demonstrated this in the last couple of years. Parents in particular are far more positive than we might have initially thought, and I think are a resource we need to engage with far more. 1/4 of a million young people will take a GCSE in RS this year (roughly). So the subject is very much alive. Young people are positive about it and see its value. Again our own competitions support this view and do go onto our website to see the voices of young people and their views on the world. There are many great projects across the subject community promoting and engaging with a range of audiences. We've been supporting Portsmouth, Barnet and Cumbria SACREs, and we will hear about the Westhill awards later.

### **The treasured pearl...**

It is NASACRE 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary, the pearl anniversary. We have a treasured pearl in our subject. An education in religion and worldviews is highly valuable. The most valuable pearls are those which are highly reflective. As we mark 30 years, let's pause and reflect. Much has been achieved, but there are challenges as well as opportunities ahead. As a religion and worldview community we need to be agile; the education world is not the same as 5, 10 and certainly not 30 years ago. This requires us to think differently, see possibilities when sometimes things seem against us. We have to work within the systems we have, and that will present themselves to us. This may mean we have to do things differently too. If our subject is a treasured pearl, we need to make sure it is on display, that people admire it. So let's work together, to strengthen, support, represent and celebrate. Let's move together to future proof the subject, and see the subject make a difference in the lives of the children and young people.

Kathryn Wright  
May 2023