

# Faith and Religion Toolkit

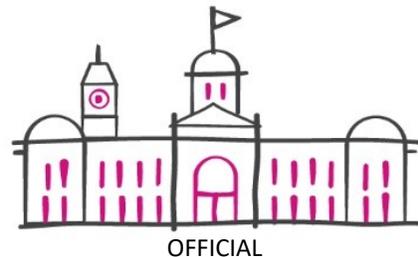


# What are faith and religion about?

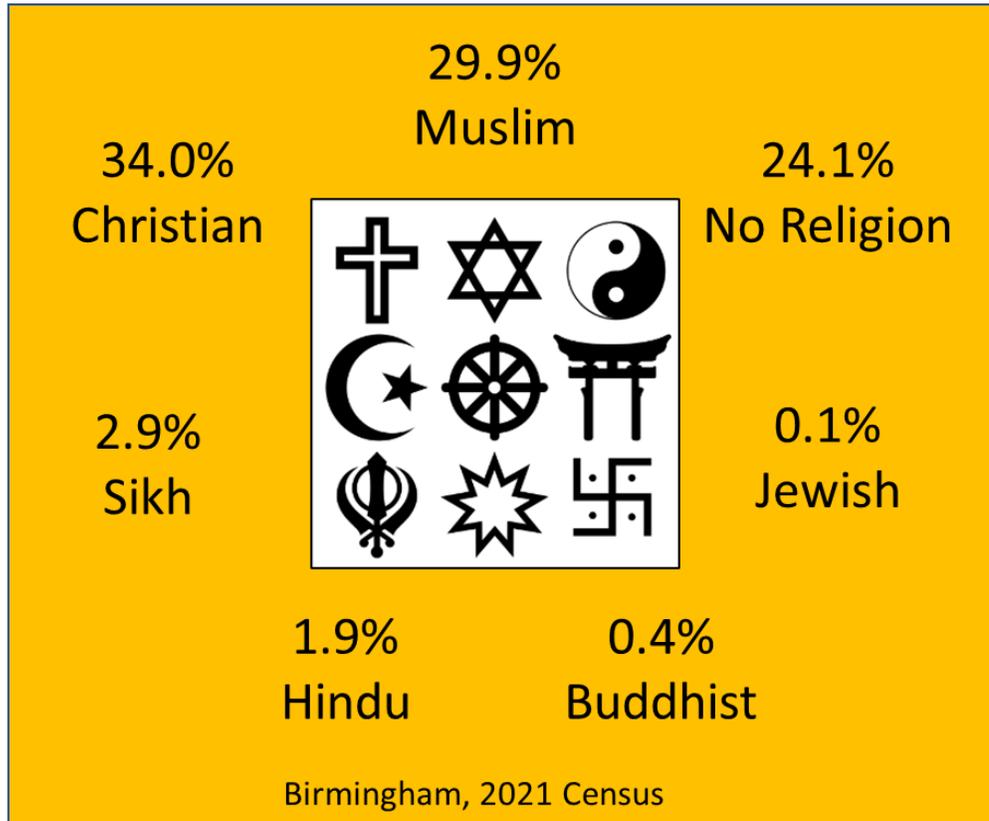


Religion can be explained as a set of beliefs concerning the cause, nature, and purpose of the universe, especially when considered as the creation of a superhuman agency or agencies, usually involving devotional and ritual observances, and often containing a moral code governing the conduct of human affairs. ([BBC definition](#))

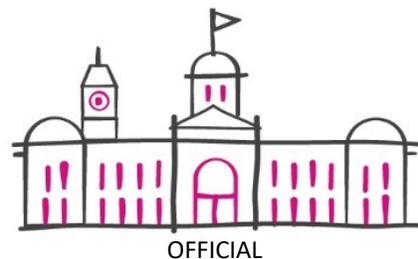
Religion is a legally protected characteristic under the [Equality Act 2010](#).



# National and Local Context

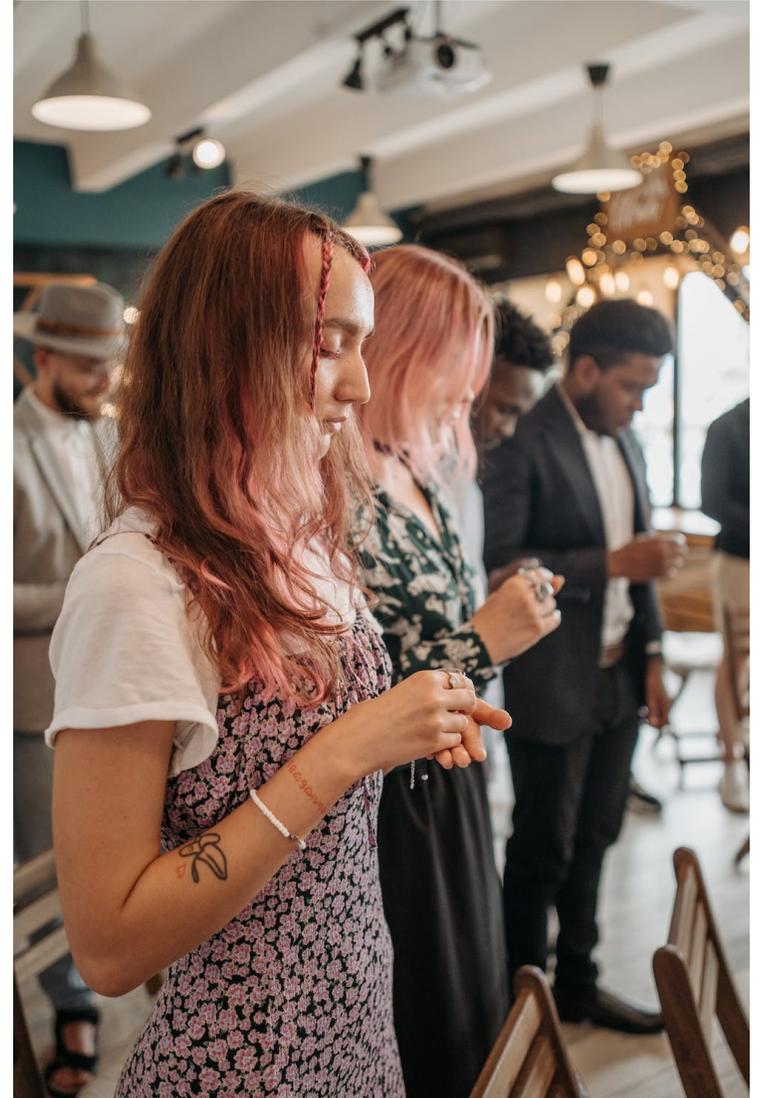


- Within England and Wales, the most common response to being asked about a person's religion is Christian (46.2%) with no religion being the second most common (37.2%)
- Only 6.5% of people identify as Muslim in England and Wales, but Birmingham has a much higher percentage (29.9%).
- Birmingham is one of the most diverse cities in England and Wales regarding religion and faith.



# Measuring faith and religion

- Measuring faith and religion is important for ensuring individual care as it can help understand the health beliefs, practises, and needs of different groups of people. Religion can influence how people view, interpret and pursue health, and how they cope with illness, suffering and death.
- We can also improve services through measuring faith and religion, as it can help tailor services for different groups such as dietary restriction. Engaging with religious leaders and organisations to promote initiatives can aid in uptake within communities.



# Measurement tool

Tool	Faith & Religion
Question	<b>Which is your religion?</b>
Options	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><input type="checkbox"/> No religion</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Christian</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Buddhist</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Hindu</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Jewish</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Muslim</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Sikh</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Agnostic</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Atheist</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Other religion (Free text box)</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Do not wish to answer</li></ul>
Benchmark	<p style="text-align: center;"><a href="#">Birmingham City Observatory 2021 Census Dashboard</a> <a href="#">Birmingham City Observatory Ward Profiles</a> <a href="#">Birmingham Community Health Profiles: Lesbian</a></p>
Question source	ONS

# Specific issues to consider

- Some people may be unsure on the difference between “no religion” or “atheist”
- Some people may not completely identify with options given, such as Catholics identifying as Christian – *this is partly mitigated by the option of a write in*

