



# Census 2021 - Ethnicity, Identity, Language & Religion



### Ethnicity

- In Staffordshire, the proportion who identified their ethnic group within the “White” category fell slightly from 95.7% in 2011 to 93.6% in 2021, however this fall was less pronounced than in England and Wales.
- The next most common ethnic group was ‘Asian, Asian British or Asian Welsh’ accounting for 3.3% of the Staffordshire population, representing an increase from 2.4%, however this remains much lower than in England and Wales (9.3%). Nearly three quarters of this group identified as Pakistani or Indian.
- East Staffordshire remains the most ethnically diverse district; 86.3% of the East Staffordshire people identified their ethnic group within the “White” category, followed by ‘Asian, Asian British or Asian Welsh’ accounting for 9.3%.

### Identity

- Those selecting a non-UK identity accounted for 3.8% of the Staffordshire population in 2021, increasing from 2.9% in 2011.
- Of those with a non-UK national identity, ‘Polish’ (0.7%) followed by ‘Romanian’ (0.6%) were the most common.

### Language

- English remains the most common language spoken in Staffordshire accounting for 93.7%, although this has reduced from 97.7% in 2011.
- Possibly as a result of the above, English proficiency (those who state their main language is English or can speak English ‘Well’ or ‘Very Well’) has also reduced from 99.5% in 2011 to 96.5% in 2021.
- Other main languages in Staffordshire include Polish (0.7%), Romanian (0.6%), Panjabi (0.2%) and Urdu (0.2%).
- East Staffordshire has the lowest proportion of people who indicated English as their main language reported at 87.1%. Polish (2.3%), Romanian (1.4%) and Urdu (1.1%) were the next most common languages spoken in the borough.

### Religion

- The proportion of Staffordshire residents identifying as Christian has reduced from 68.2% in 2011 to 53.9%; broadly in line with national trends, but still slightly higher than in England and Wales (46.2%).
- The proportion of residents stating they have no religion has increased from 22.8% in 2011 to 37.2% and is in line with the national average.
- Residents identifying as Muslim has increased from 1.3% in 2011 to 1.9% in 2021.

The increasingly ethnic diverse population emphasises the importance of Staffordshire continuing to ensure that local public services are inclusive and accessible to all.

## Introduction

Census Day took place on the 21st March 2021, with results providing a detailed snapshot of the population and its characteristics at a point in time. 'Ethnicity, Identity, Language and Religion' is the latest release in a series of topic-based summaries, which ONS published on 29<sup>th</sup> November 2022. This thematic data release provides information by population and household, for England and Wales, local authorities and also for smaller output areas known as LSOAs (Lower Super Output Areas)<sup>1</sup>.

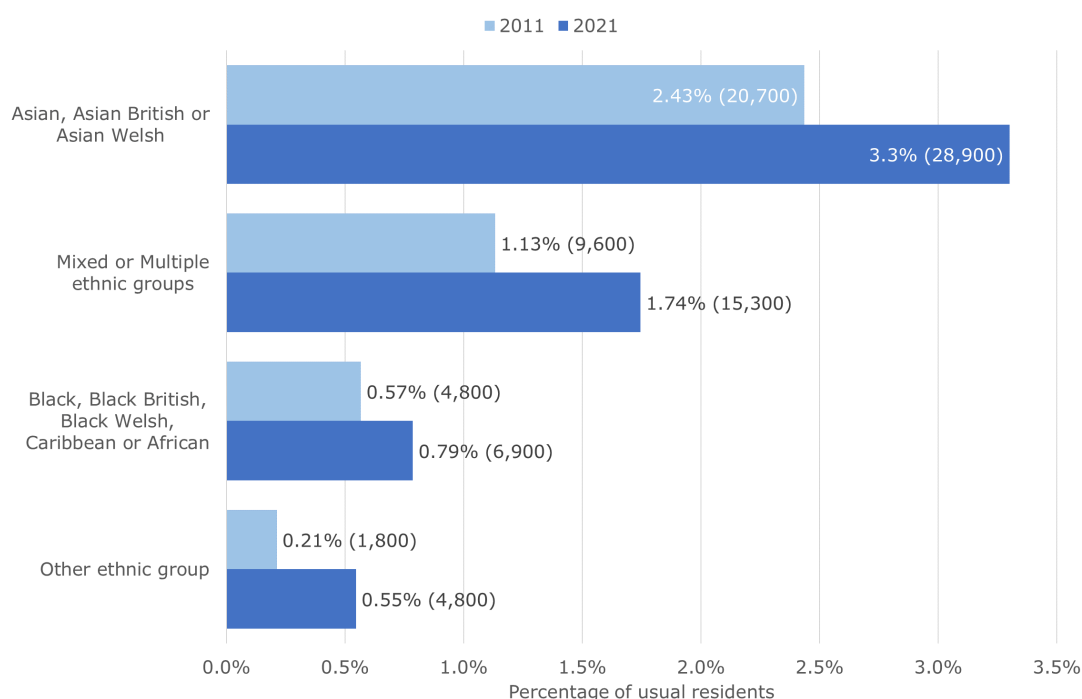
When considering this briefing, please bear in mind that the recently arrived Ukrainian refugees will not be included in these figures as they started arriving after the 2021 Census.

## Ethnicity

In Staffordshire, the proportion who identified their ethnic group as "White" fell slightly from 95.7% in 2011 to 93.6% in 2021, however this fall was less pronounced than in England and Wales, which fell from 86.0% in 2011 to 81.7% in 2021.

Changes in the remaining high-level ethnic groups (excluding "White" category) is illustrated in Figure 1, with increases seen across all four groups.

**Figure 1** - Percentage of the Staffordshire population in all high-level ethnic groups, excluding "White" category, 2011 and 2021



Source: Office for National Statistics, Census 2021

There are many factors that may have contributed to the local changing ethnic composition, including differing patterns of ageing, fertility, mortality, and

<sup>1</sup> A Lower Super Output Area (LSOA) is a geographic area with a typical population of around 1,500 or 650 households.

migration. Changes may also have been caused by differences in the way individuals chose to self-identify between censuses.

A summary of all other ethnic groups combined can be seen at a district and borough level in Figure 2. Whilst a rise can be seen across all, East Staffordshire remains the most ethnically diverse district, with a notably higher proportion of their population in the "Asian" grouping.

**Figure 2** - Percentage of population by high-level ethnic groups (excluding "White" category), 2021

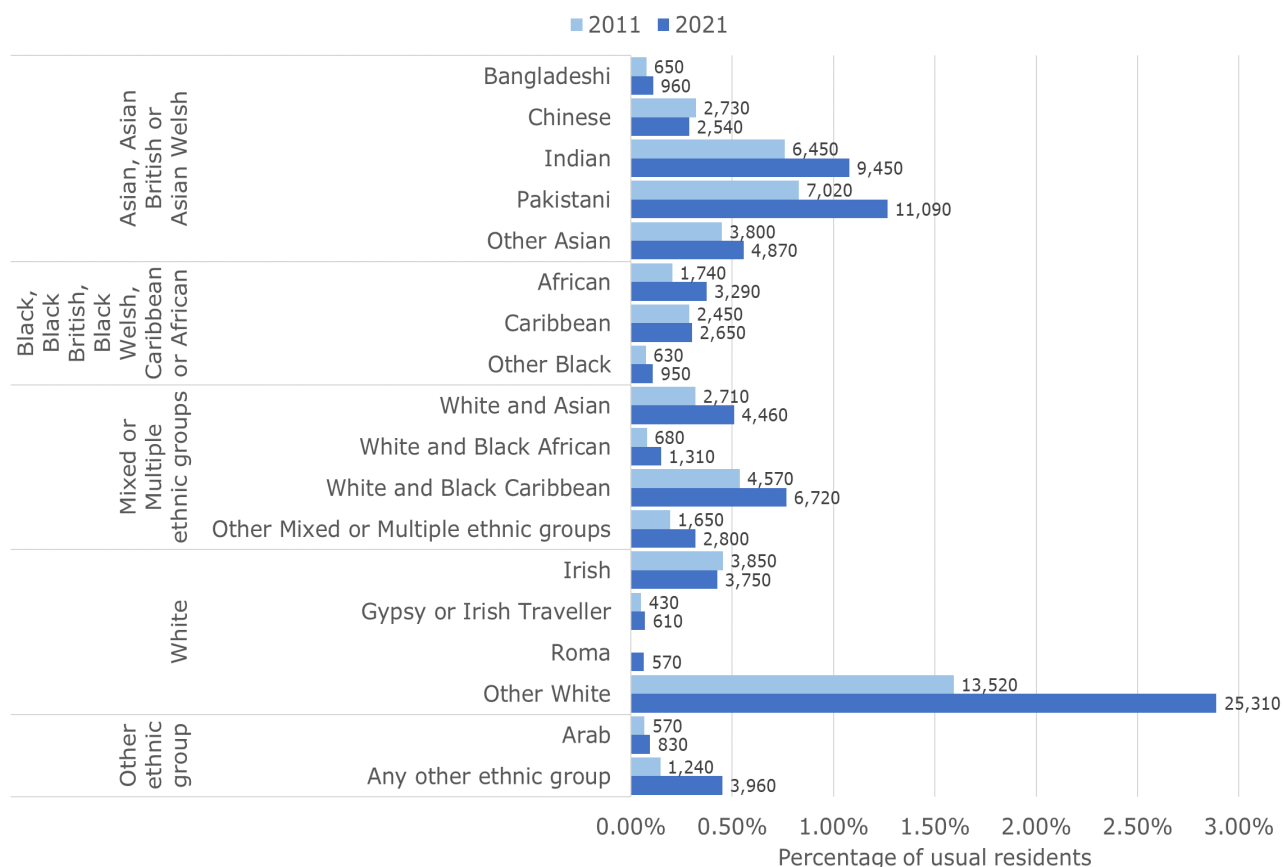
District/Borough	High level ethnic group					% point change since 2011
	Asian, Asian British or Asian Welsh	Mixed or Multiple ethnic groups	Black, Black British, Black Welsh, Caribbean or African	Other ethnic group	Total	
Cannock Chase	1.20%	1.41%	0.47%	0.29%	3.37%	1.11%
East Staffordshire	9.31%	2.20%	1.11%	1.06%	13.68%	4.11%
Lichfield	2.35%	1.87%	0.56%	0.41%	5.19%	1.95%
Newcastle-under-Lyme	3.76%	1.61%	1.05%	0.70%	7.12%	2.11%
South Staffordshire	2.81%	2.03%	0.93%	0.47%	6.25%	2.15%
Stafford	3.04%	1.86%	1.05%	0.66%	6.62%	1.61%
Staffordshire Moorlands	0.69%	0.94%	0.20%	0.17%	2.00%	0.68%
Tamworth	1.37%	1.87%	0.63%	0.37%	4.24%	1.57%
<b>Staffordshire</b>	<b>3.30%</b>	<b>1.74%</b>	<b>0.79%</b>	<b>0.55%</b>	<b>6.38%</b>	<b>2.03%</b>
<b>England &amp; Wales</b>	<b>9.25%</b>	<b>2.88%</b>	<b>4.04%</b>	<b>2.11%</b>	<b>18.29%</b>	<b>4.26%</b>

Source: Office for National Statistics, Census 2021

Census data also provides a more detailed breakdown of ethnic minority groups. Within the "White" ethnic group, 90.2% of residents in Staffordshire identified as "English, Welsh, Scottish, Northern Irish or British", representing a decrease from 93.6% in 2011. For ease of interpretation, this group has been excluded in Figure 3 to illustrate how the ethnic minority population has changed in Staffordshire between 2011 and 2021. All ethnic groups have experienced an increase, except for "Chinese" and "Irish".

There has been a notable increase in the "Other White" ethnic group which includes, among others, our Polish and Romanian populations. We know from the previous Migration release that Staffordshire has seen an increase of over 5,300 Romanian born residents and an increase of around 2,300 Polish born residents between 2011 and 2021.

**Figure 3 – Ethnic minority groups in Staffordshire, 2011 and 2021**



Source: Office for National Statistics, Census 2021

Focussing on the same ethnic minority groups at a Staffordshire district and borough level, we can see that all have experienced an increase in their minority ethnic group population. This is particularly evident for East Staffordshire which can be seen in Figure 4. Appendix 1 also provides a more detailed look at the three most common ethnic groups by district/borough.

**Figure 4 – Proportion of resident population in an ethnic minority group by district/borough, 2011 and 2021**

District/Borough	Minority ethnic group		
	2021	2011	% point change
Cannock Chase	5.48%	3.51%	1.97%
East Staffordshire	21.78%	13.85%	7.93%
Lichfield	7.97%	5.36%	2.62%
Newcastle-under-Lyme	10.03%	6.75%	3.28%
South Staffordshire	7.83%	5.36%	2.47%
Stafford	9.99%	7.42%	2.58%
Staffordshire Moorlands	3.42%	2.52%	0.90%
Tamworth	9.13%	4.98%	4.15%
<b>Staffordshire</b>	<b>9.83%</b>	<b>6.44%</b>	<b>3.39%</b>
<b>England &amp; Wales</b>	<b>25.65%</b>	<b>19.51%</b>	<b>6.14%</b>

Source: Office for National Statistics, Census 2021

## Ethnic groups within households

In Staffordshire in 2021, 66.0% of all households were comprised of members all identifying as being from the same ethnic group, falling from 68.3% households in 2011. In 5.2% of Staffordshire households, two or more ethnic groups were represented, increasing from 4.0% in 2011. Remaining households were single person households.

## National Identity

In 2021, 96.2% of Staffordshire residents identified with at least one UK identity (English, Welsh, Scottish, Northern Irish, British, and Cornish) compared to 97.1% in 2011 – much higher than England and Wales reported at 90.3% for 2021.

Across Staffordshire's districts and boroughs, this figure varied from 90.7% in East Staffordshire to 98.5% in Staffordshire Moorlands and South Staffordshire (Figure 5).

**Figure 5** – Proportion of residents identifying with a UK national identity by district/borough, 2011 and 2021

District/Borough	% usual residents who identified with at least one UK identity		% non-UK identity	
	2021	2011	2021	2011
Cannock Chase	98.0%	98.6%	2.0%	1.4%
East Staffordshire	90.7%	94.1%	9.3%	5.9%
Lichfield	97.4%	97.7%	2.6%	2.3%
Newcastle-under-Lyme	96.3%	96.6%	3.7%	3.4%
South Staffordshire	98.5%	98.5%	1.5%	1.5%
Stafford	95.8%	96.1%	4.2%	3.9%
Staffordshire Moorlands	98.5%	98.6%	1.5%	1.4%
Tamworth	95.3%	97.5%	4.7%	2.5%
<b>Staffordshire</b>	<b>96.2%</b>	<b>97.1%</b>	<b>3.8%</b>	<b>2.9%</b>
<b>England &amp; Wales</b>	<b>90.3%</b>	<b>91.0%</b>	<b>9.7%</b>	<b>9.0%</b>

Source: Office for National Statistics, Census 2021 and 2011

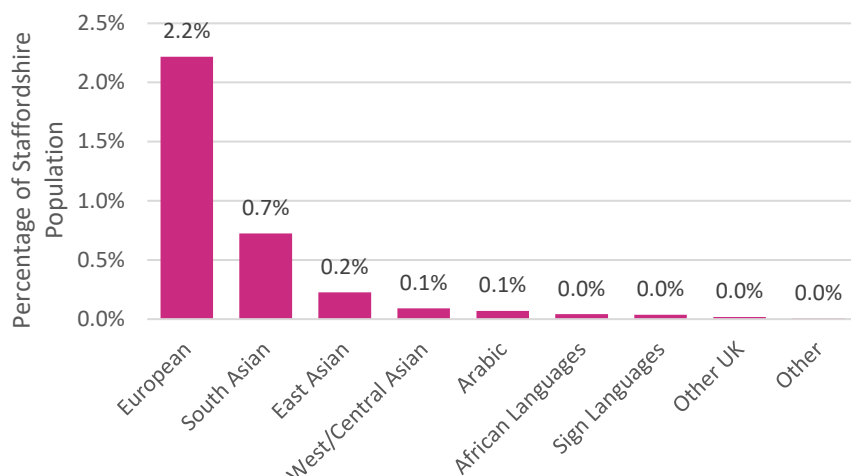
## Language

In 2021 English remains the most common language spoken in Staffordshire accounting for 93.7% of residents, although this has reduced from 97.7% in 2011. More people in Staffordshire state that English is their main language than the England and Wales total of 88.2%.

Beyond English, the most common language group in Staffordshire is European; accounting for 2.2% of responses, increasing from 1.2% in 2011 (Figure 6)<sup>2</sup>.

<sup>2</sup> Please note that this data will not be reflective of Ukrainians coming to Staffordshire, following the recent Russian invasion.

**Figure 6** – Language Groups in Staffordshire (excluding English and other responses), 2021



Source: Office for National Statistics, Census 2021

Other main languages spoken in Staffordshire include Polish (0.7%), Romanian (0.6%), Panjabi (0.2%) and Urdu (0.2%). This is consistent with findings from the recent Migration release which identified Poland and Romania as the two most common non-UK countries of birth in Staffordshire.

In our districts and boroughs, East Staffordshire has the lowest proportion of people who indicated English as their main language at 87.1%. Polish (2.3%), Romanian (1.4%) and Urdu (1.1%) were the next most common languages spoken in the borough. The three most prevalent non-English main languages for each district and borough are shown in Figure 7.

**Figure 7 – Top 3 Non-English Main Languages by district/borough, 2021**

District	Top 3 Main Languages (non-English)	Percentage of Population
Cannock Chase	Romanian	0.36%
	Polish	0.30%
	Panjabi	0.12%
East Staffordshire	Polish	2.32%
	Romanian	1.37%
	Urdu	1.09%
Lichfield	Polish	0.44%
	Romanian	0.22%
	Panjabi	0.18%
Newcastle Under Lyme	Polish	0.54%
	Romanian	0.41%
	Malayalam	0.28%
South Staffordshire	Panjabi	0.33%
	Polish	0.10%
	Romanian	0.07%
Stafford	Polish	0.61%
	Romanian	0.39%
	Nepalese	0.35%
Staffordshire Moorlands	Polish	0.18%
	Romanian	0.09%
	Tamil	0.05%
Tamworth	Romanian	1.77%
	Polish	1.00%
	Bulgarian	0.16%

Source: Office for National Statistics, Census 2021

In 2021 people stating that they cannot speak English or cannot speak English well has increased slightly from 0.5% in 2011 to 0.6% in 2021. This figure is highest in East Staffordshire (2.4%) and lowest in Staffordshire Moorlands (0.1%).

It is also likely that the number of people in Staffordshire who cannot speak English or cannot speak English well is higher than reported. The nature of completing a census will inevitably deter those with language barriers, regardless of any support in place.

Given the increase in non-English languages and change in English proficiency, ongoing consideration should be given to support residents to integrate into local communities despite language barriers.

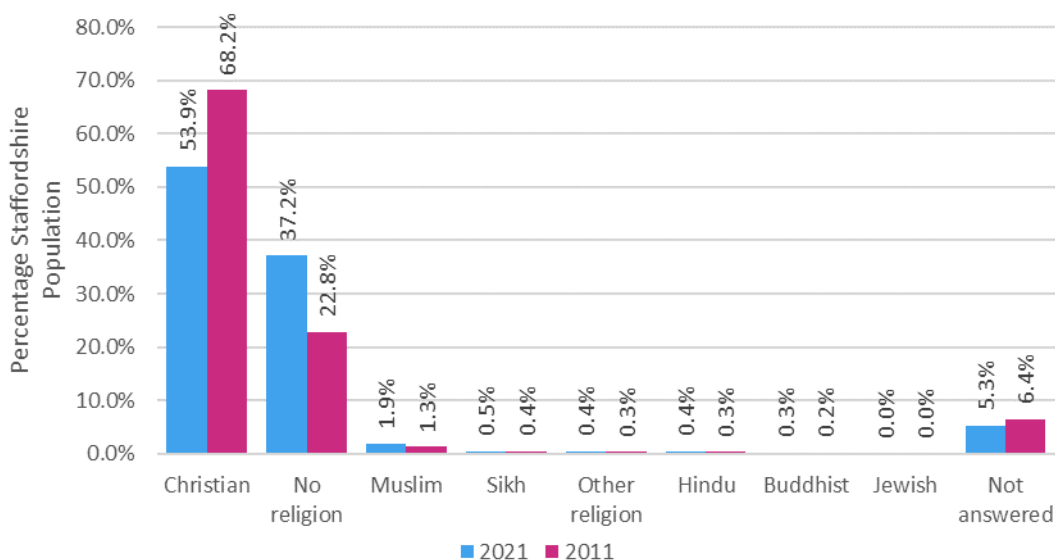
## Religion

In 2021 the proportion of Staffordshire residents identifying as Christian has reduced from 68.2% in 2011 to 53.9%; broadly in line with national trends, but still slightly higher than in England and Wales (46.2%). This is offset with an increase in the proportion of residents stating they have no religion from 22.8% in 2011 to 37.2% in 2021.

Staffordshire residents identifying as Muslim has increased from 1.3% in 2011 to 1.9% in 2021. See Figure 8 for more detail.



**Figure 8 – Religion, 2011 and 2021**



Source: Office for National Statistics, Census 2021 and 2011

There is some variation between our district and boroughs which can be seen in Figure 9. The highest rate of Christianity is in Staffordshire Moorlands (59.3%) and the lowest is in Tamworth (49.1%). Tamworth also has the highest level of people stating they have no religion at 44.3%.

**Figure 9 – Religion by district/borough, 2021**

District	Christian	No Religion	Muslim	Other	Not Stated
Cannock Chase	52.4%	41.1%	0.3%	1.2%	4.9%
East Staffordshire	50.4%	33.9%	8.7%	1.4%	5.6%
Lichfield	54.2%	38.1%	0.7%	2.0%	5.0%
Newcastle-under-Lyme	51.9%	38.9%	1.8%	1.6%	5.8%
South Staffordshire	59.2%	32.5%	0.8%	2.7%	4.9%
Stafford	54.3%	36.9%	1.1%	2.3%	5.4%
Staffordshire Moorlands	59.3%	33.9%	0.3%	0.8%	5.7%
Tamworth	49.1%	44.3%	0.5%	1.2%	5.0%

Source: Office for National Statistics, Census 2021

Focusing on households, 34.7% included people of the same religion and 19.5% of households had no religion. Both groups of households may have also included people who did not state their religion.

Similar to aspects of identity, ethnicity and language, these changes in religion emphasise the importance of inclusion and equality in Staffordshire.



## Future Releases

ONS is planning to release further reports about ethnicity, religion and identity by education, employment, health and housing status in 2023.

Further details are available [here](#).



## Useful Links

All briefing notes for the 2021 Census will be published on the Staffordshire Observatory [here](#).

The ONS Census 2021 data is available to explore and use now, with a number of helpful resources made publicly available.

- The ONS Census 2021 bulletins on Ethnic group, national identity, language, and religion along with data tables can be found [here](#).
- ONS Local Authority interactive guide is available [here](#).

### **Check this section**

For more information contact the Insight Team at:  
[insight.team@staffordshire.gov.uk](mailto:insight.team@staffordshire.gov.uk).

## Appendix 1 – Top 3 ethnic minority groups by Staffordshire district or borough, 2021

District/Borough	Minority ethnic group		
	Most common	Second most common	Third most common
Cannock Chase	White and Black Caribbean (0.73%)	Indian or British Indian (0.5%)	White and Asian (unspecified) (0.34%)
East Staffordshire	Pakistani or British Pakistani (6.96%)	Polish (2.31%)	European Mixed (1.13%)
Lichfield	Indian or British Indian (1.39%)	White and Black Caribbean (0.75%)	Irish (0.62%)
Newcastle-under-Lyme	Indian or British Indian (1.38%)	Pakistani or British Pakistani (0.77%)	Polish (0.55%)
South Staffordshire	Indian or British Indian (1.92%)	White and Black Caribbean (1.06%)	White and Asian (unspecified) (0.56%)
Stafford	Indian or British Indian (1.36%)	White and Black Caribbean (0.81%)	Polish (0.63%)
Staffordshire Moorlands	White and Asian (unspecified) (0.32%)	White and Black Caribbean (0.32%)	European Mixed (0.27%)
Tamworth	Romanian (1.22%)	Polish (0.98%)	White and Black Caribbean (0.96%)
<b>Staffordshire</b>	<b>Pakistani or British Pakistani (1.27%)</b>	<b>Indian or British Indian (1.08%)</b>	<b>White and Black Caribbean (0.77%)</b>
<b>England &amp; Wales</b>	<b>Indian or British Indian (3.13%)</b>	<b>Pakistani or British Pakistani (2.66%)</b>	<b>European Mixed (1.08%)</b>



## Appendix 2 – Ethnic minority population by Lower Super Output Area

