

E.5 The demographics of religion and belief in Herefordshire, the region and the nation

The 2011 Census information sets the demographic context for the county, the region and the nation. This will be updated with the 2021 Census, but these data still have relevance today. We intend to educate pupils for their current life, whether in a village, town or city, but also for a plural nation and a diverse world. The purpose of RE includes enabling pupils to be ready to live well in a wider world: the region, the nation, the global community.

| CENSUS 2011: | Population | Christian | Buddhist | Hindu | Jewish | Muslim | Sikh | Other religion | No religion | No religion: Humanist | Religion not stated |
|--------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|------------------|----------------|----------------|-------------------|--------------------------|------------------------|
| Herefordshire | 183,477 | 124,403 | 562 | 228 | 131 | 364 | 80 | 893 | 41,766 | 72 | 15,050 |
| Shropshire | 306,129 | 210,268 | 792 | 378 | 127 | 989 | 256 | 1,113 | 69,725 | 123 | 22,481 |
| Worcestershire | 566,169 | 382,240 | 1,268 | 1,145 | 355 | 7,466 | 1,413 | 2,061 | 131,861 | 172 | 38,360 |
| Gloucestershire | 596,984 | 379,144 | 1,772 | 2,222 | 539 | 5,741 | 449 | 2,940 | 159,496 | 211 | 44,681 |
| Monmouthshire | 91,323 | 57,101 | 269 | 162 | 65 | 239 | 47 | 391 | 26,018 | 43 | 7,031 |
| Powys | 132,976 | 82,120 | 567 | 324 | 80 | 235 | 49 | 798 | 37,050 | 67 | 11,753 |
| West Midlands | 2,736,460 | 1,471,780 | 9,119 | 59,768 | 3,060 | 332,684 | 116,715 | 15,181 | 554,152 | 469 | 174,001 |
| Birmingham | 1,073,045 | 494,358 | 4,780 | 22,362 | 2,205 | 234,411 | 32,376 | 5,646 | 206,821 | 219 | 70,086 |
| Inner London | 3,231,901 | 1,466,035 | 36,860 | 70,178 | 52,767 | 466,265 | 14,631 | 15,499 | 772,717 | 1,092 | 336,949 |
| England | 53,012,456 | 31,479,876 | 238,626 | 806,199 | 261,282 | 2,660,116 | 420,196 | 227,825 | 13,114,232 | 14,252 | 3,804,104 |
| ENGLAND AND WALES | 56,075,912 | 33,243,175 | 247,743 | 816,633 | 263,346 | 2,706,066 | 423,158 | 240,530 | 14,097,229 | 15,067 | 4,038,032 |

This table selects data for religious affiliation from the 2011 Census, providing a context for RE in Herefordshire and the surrounding region. We need RE that prepares young people for life in the village, county, region, nation and world. Diversity is not always evident in every part of the county or the region, but pupils might learn much from seeing this regional picture and understanding it. Some parts of the region are not as diverse as others, but the region still reflect a range of religious and non-religious worldviews.

Note that the British Social Attitudes Survey gives a different national picture. See their report for 2018, noting the changes over the past decades on p.5 of the report.

https://bsa.natcen.ac.uk/media/39293/1_bsa36_religion.pdf Note, however, that the BSA Survey and the Census ask different questions about religion, so the results are not immediately comparable.