

Westhill & NASACRE award

Project Idea: 'Celebrating Diversity'

Why do we need this project?

- Our project will support pupil's education about diversity and learn to celebrate difference;
- It will improve religious literacy, helping pupils to talk knowledgeably about religious and non-religious beliefs and diversity;
- It will help to build community – between pupils as well as between community members supporting teachers to meet with local faith leaders; and
- It will leave a sustainable legacy ensuring schools can continue to work alongside each other and continue to learn about and from religion and world views.

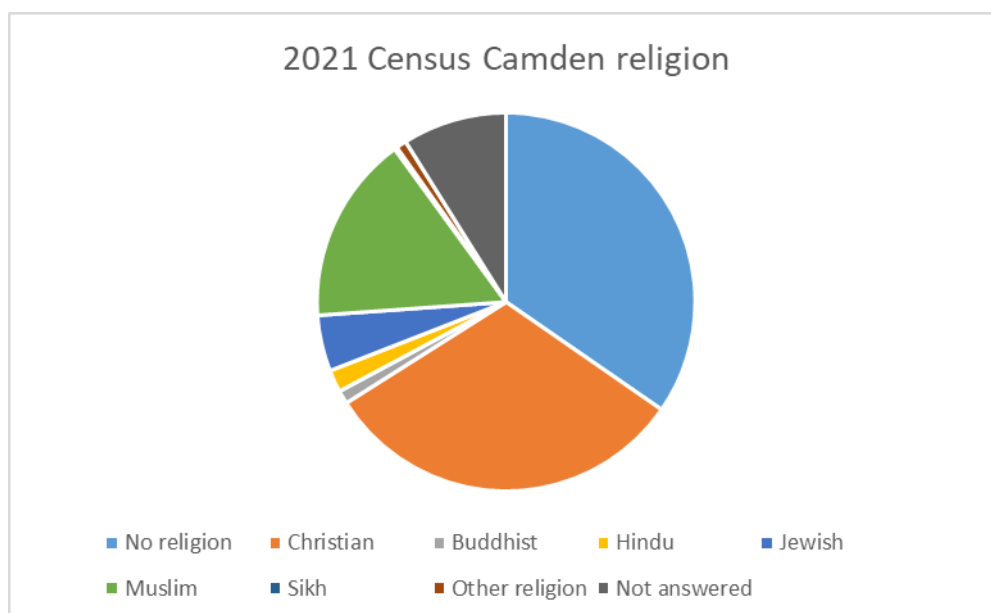
Background

In the 2021 Census, figures clearly indicate that Camden is a multi-faith Borough; after Christian people (31%) the largest religious group in the Borough is made up of Muslim people (16%), then Jewish people (5%), Hindu people (2%), Buddhist people at (1%), Sikh people (0.2%) and other religions (0.8%). 35% of Borough state they have no religion, a figure that has grown by 10% compared to ten years ago.

2021 Camden religion data

No religion	72776	35.00%
Christian	65980	31%
Buddhist	2410	1%
Hindu	3991	2%
Jewish	10079	5.00%
Muslim	33830	16%
Sikh	487	0.20%
Other religion	1842	0.80%
Not answered	18743	9.00%

More recent data indicates that there will continue to be demand for religious meeting places in particular for churches, mosques, mandirs and gurdwaras.



According to the 2023 school census there were 21,225 pupils (Source: School Census, January 2023). This includes pupils attending school-based nurseries and 6th forms in Camden. Children aged between 0 and 19, equating to circa 10% of the population.

There were 128 different languages spoken in Camden primary schools according to the 2023 census, and 152 different languages spoken within secondary schools. The ten most spoken languages in schools were English, Bengali, Arabic, Somali, Albanian, French, Spanish, Portuguese, Hebrew and Russian. Understanding and appreciating difference and diversity is an important value to support in schools.

Number of pupils	Language spoken
10,729	English
2,239	Bengali
1,125	Arabic
1,055	Somali
678	Albanian
430	French
397	Spanish
292	Portuguese
171	Hebrew
168	Russian

This diversity is seen within schools and again highlights for SACRE the importance of having well supported staff to be able to help pupils make progress academically as well as learn to live well with difference and diversity.

We are applying for this Westhill NASACRE award, as we would like to:

- ◆ Organise four inter-faith one-day conferences each for 6 primary schools (so a total of 24 schools and 144 year 5 pupils would attend) using Camden’s RE advisor to lead these days and to train up RE lead teachers who could take forward these days in the next academic year.
- ◆ The KS2 conferences would seek to give pupils first-hand experience of different religions and beliefs through meeting adult members of Camden SACRE and Camden’s faith forum so they can learn more about religious and non-religious beliefs and practices;

We believe that this project will:

- ✓ Promote dialogue between pupils of differing beliefs around diversity within and between religious and non-religious beliefs and how these encounters can help to celebrate diversity. This will help to develop skills of empathy, tolerance and respect;
- ✓ Achieve community benefit, as the project flows from the interests of adult SACRE members in Camden who want to see their SACRE become more active in supporting schools around the teaching of RE;
- ✓ Initiate a model of schools meeting together in Camden for RE conferences and begin to train a team of lead teachers in RE to help deliver inspirational RE into Camden schools
- ✓ Give adult SACRE three benefits: A) it’s faith representatives will be contacted to be part of the one-day conferences to be part of panel discussions – giving them an experience of working alongside primary pupils. B) Becoming seen will allow SACRE members to become known to schools; C) This will

strengthen the voice of SACRE within the LA as it can see the benefit it can bring to education through community cohesion and understanding.

- ✓ The project will also have the benefit of breaking down barriers constructed through ignorance and fear of the unknown, and challenge the resulting stereotypes which emerge in popular culture around religion.

How money would be allocated

Organise four one-day conference between 24 schools, run the days, write the day and prepare materials, train up lead teachers £4000

TOTAL = £4000