

# Ethnicity in Oxfordshire

## Summary

**Population** 8% of Oxfordshire's population are black, Asian or other ethnic minorities; 5% are from other white groups (2007 figures).

**Languages** The top 6 first languages other than English amongst children in Oxfordshire are Panjabi, Urdu, Polish, Bengali, Arabic, Mandarin. In addition, Portuguese and Pashto are frequently requested by adults.

**Population Change** The biggest population increase since 2001 is amongst the 'white other' (including Polish), Indian, Chinese, black African and Pakistani populations.

**Age Profile** Black, Asian or other ethnic minorities have a 'younger' age profile than the white British population. This means that the number of people needing older people services has up until now been low, but is likely to grow quickly over the next 10 years.

**Access to Services** Some of the challenges to accessing services include: language and literacy, awareness and expectations of services, concerns about privacy, cost, or preconceptions about state powers, fear of being viewed as too assertive or difficult.

## District Focus

**Oxford City** is the most ethnically diverse district. 28% of its population belong to White Other or BAME (Black, Asian and minority ethnicities). Since 2001 the biggest population increases have come from: White Other, Chinese and Indian populations. 10,000 students attending Oxford University and Oxford Brookes, come from overseas of which 3,000 come from within the EU and over 6,000 from outside it.

**Districts** In Cherwell, The Vale of White Horse and South Oxfordshire 11% of the population is White Other or BAME, compared to 8% in West Oxfordshire. Cherwell has the highest number of children that don't speak English as their primary language.

White Other is the largest ethnic minority group in all districts and growth amongst this group has been the highest, followed by growth amongst Indian, Pakistani and Black African populations.

**Towns** Oxford and Banbury have the highest concentrations of BAME people and both urban centres have established race equality councils.

*However* when measuring the number of people for whom English is not the primary language Kidlington and Shrivenham emerge as significant areas. Didcot, Bicester, Witney, Careton and Hinksey also having growing populations of children who speak a foreign languages.

## **How this briefing aims to help**

This brief is principally aimed at helping people who are planning services or working with community groups. It aims to: help identify where people are; provide up-to-date information for target setting; and provide some useful tips in providing a better service.

A consultation carried out by Oxfordshire County Council, Adult Social Care highlighted issues experienced by some BAME and migrant communities. This page suggests some positive steps services can take to make services more accessible.

### **Customer Service**

For people born abroad, English language competence may vary. Some services have had success putting up welcome signs in local languages and encouraging bilingual staff to support a 'meet and greet service' for general and ad hoc enquiries.

For services dealing with personal issues or emergencies an instant interpretation service (such as Language Line), interpretation service or specialised bilingual staff are recommended. Relying on family members to interpret on behalf of an individual risks an individual being misrepresented.

Where there is a concentration of non-English speakers in a local area (see briefing pages), it is advisable to have materials or signs translated in advance. Literacy in a 'home language' can not always be assumed and the use of imagery in standard leaflets helps. Face-to-face contact in the individual's own language is always preferable.

### **Outreach**

There are many reasons why people may choose not to access services: People may not be aware of what service does; they may assume it will cost money; individuals from controlling countries may avoid involvement with the state. People may be unsure about accessing personal services as they may feel stigma may be attached to them or their family and wish to protect privacy. Individuals may also be anxious that they might have transgressed some unknown rule; especially if immigration status is unclear.

Clear communication of what a service does and what can be expected is always important. Consultation with communities may be helpful to understand how ideas such 'as being a carer' are perceived in different cultures. Oxford Community and Voluntary Action have a database of local community organisations see [www.oxnet.org.uk](http://www.oxnet.org.uk).

Outreach services can help, but it is important not to encourage dependence on specialist members of staff or third party intermediaries in the long-term. Methods to improve the flow of information can include encouraging adults through contact with children's services and provide training or placements to willing individuals to widen awareness.

### **Staff Support / Training**

Oxfordshire County Council has produced [A Guide to Culture and Faiths](#), which provides basic information on diversity. Internal communication should consider raising awareness of religious holidays or customs. Staff responding to personal/social issues, reception or HR staff especially may need specialist class-room based training where they have the opportunity to ask questions.

## Who lives where?

### A note on the information

Language used to describe ethnicity can be subjective based on broad categories. Where-ever possible this paper uses census terms to describe people. The term *black, Asian and minority ethnicity (BAME)* is a common term used by the Equality and Human Rights Commission to describe people who are non-white.

Since the census in 2001 Oxfordshire's population has continued to become more diverse. 8% of Oxfordshire's population are black, Asian or other ethnic minorities; 5% are from other white groups.

Proportion of population: Oxford has the highest proportion of BAME people: Of the top 16 wards<sup>1</sup> with a high proportion of BAME people in the county, all are in Oxford City. Cowley Marsh has the greatest percentage overall with 25% of its population from a BAME group. Banbury is the next most diverse town, with 11% of the population of Grimsbury and Castle from a BAME group.

**Table 1: 2007 ONS Population Estimates by ethnicity**

	All people	White British	White Irish	White Other	Asian / Asian British	Black / Black British	Chinese or Other Chinese	Mixed
<b>Oxfordshire</b>	<b>635,500</b>	<b>543,200</b>	<b>7,100</b>	<b>33,000</b>	<b>19,000</b>	<b>9,700</b>	<b>13,100</b>	<b>10,400</b>
Cherwell	137,600	122,200	1,400	5,300	3,600	1,600	1,500	2,100
Oxford	151,000	108,300	2,400	14,300	9,400	4,800	7,600	4,200
South Oxfordshire	128,400	114,500	1,300	5,700	2,600	1,400	1,400	1,500
Vale of White Horse	117,000	104,300	1,200	5,100	2,100	1,100	1,700	1,500
West Oxfordshire	101,600	93,900	900	2,600	1,200	900	1,000	1,200

Source: Office for National Statistics estimates of ethnicity, mid 2007 (experimental statistics)

Diversity of population: The cultural diversity of the county varies across the districts.

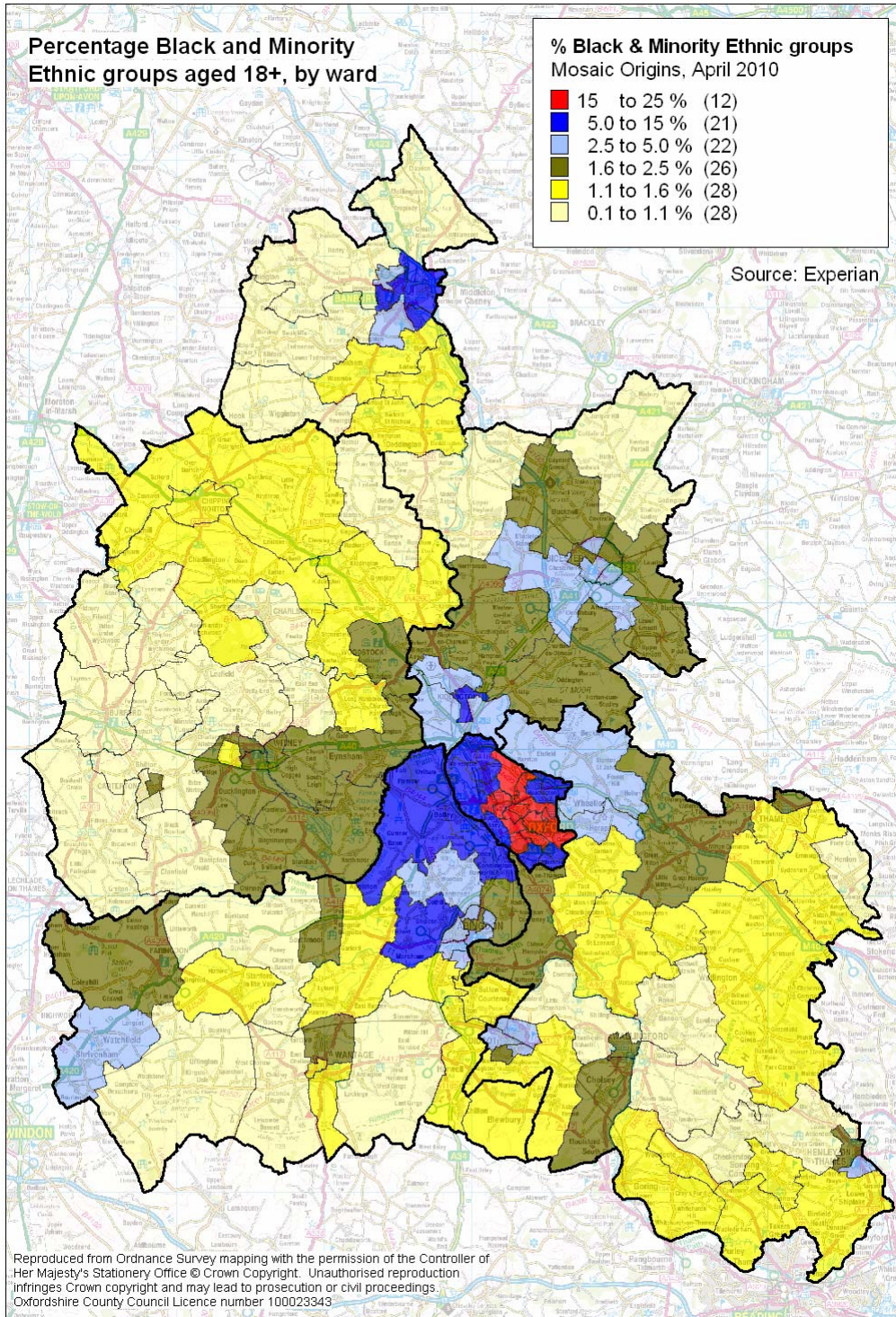
White Other is the largest group in the county; Polish and Portuguese are likely to be the main cultural groups. In Oxford, The Vale of White Horse and South Oxfordshire there is known to be a number of French, German and Americans people often linked to the university and high-tech sector.

In Oxford there are large Chinese and Indian populations exceeding 4,000 people. Cherwell has a higher proportion of people from a Pakistani background than in the southern districts, concentrated in Banbury.

<sup>1</sup> Source, Mosaic Origins



**Figure 1: Proportion of Black and Minority Ethnic groups of the population aged 18+**





## Ethnicity and Language

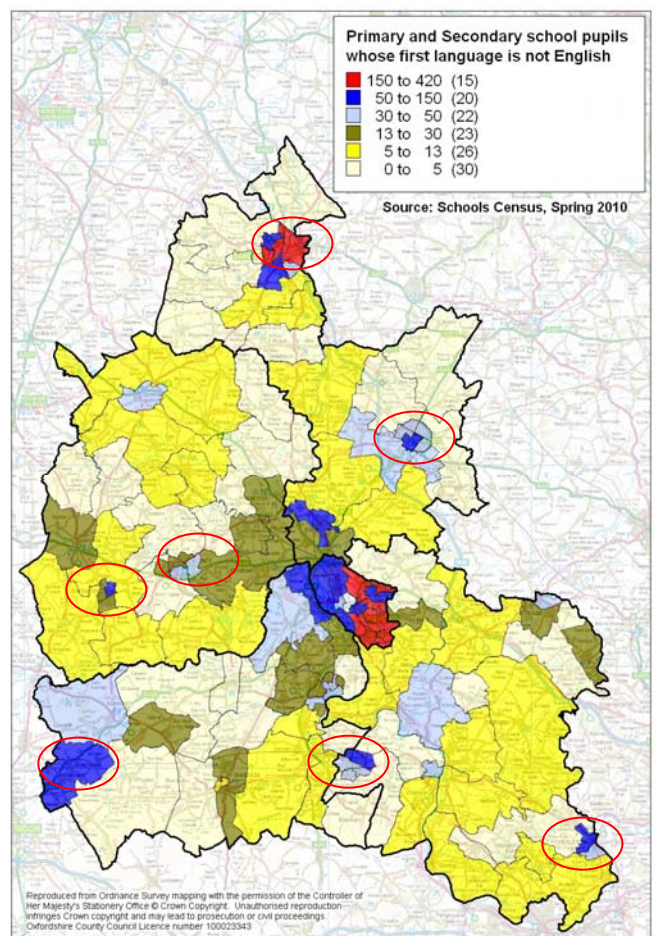
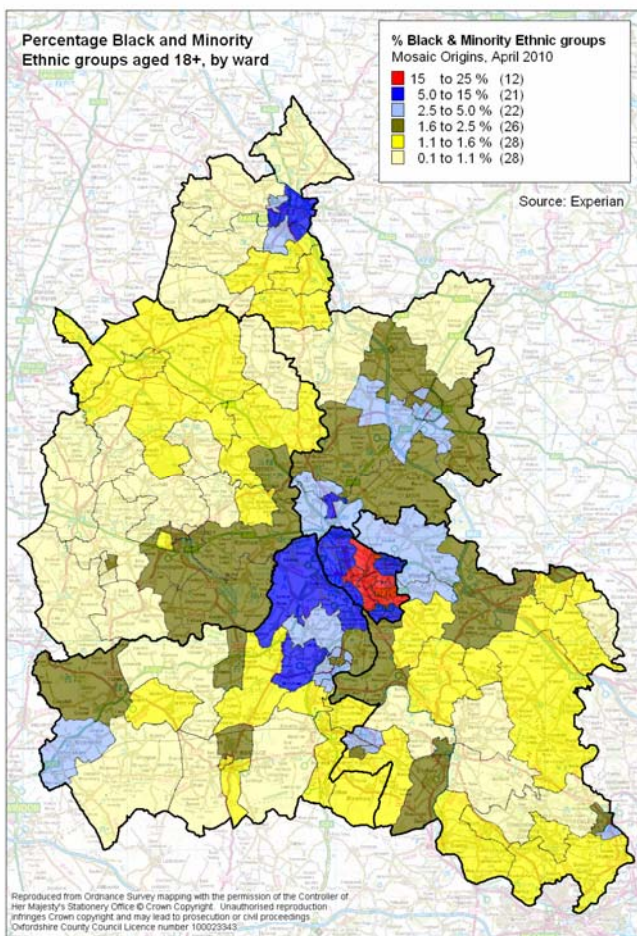
Knowledge of English is essential for people to access jobs and services; as well as to understand what rights and opportunities are available to them.

There is not a straight link between language and ethnicity. Most people who grow up in the UK will be fluent in English and may or may not have knowledge of another language. Whereas recent migrants are more likely to be more comfortable in their 'home' language and their spoken or written English may vary by individual circumstances.

The two maps below show the difference between the ethnicity of adults and languages children speak. In both cases Oxford and Banbury are important, but in the second map, focused on languages: market towns such as Kidlington, Witney, Carterton, Henley, Didcot, Henley and Shriveham are highlighted as having a higher percentage of children that speak English as a second language.

For services and community organisations this difference is important. As the following pages will demonstrate languages spoken in market towns are more likely to be associated with recent migrants such as Polish, Portuguese and Arabic; it is possible that new migrant communities will have more difficulty accessing services.

**Figures 2 & 3: Distribution of BAME groups and distribution of languages groups**



## Language Spoken in Oxfordshire

Almost 10% of primary school pupils and 7.4% of secondary school pupils attending maintained schools do not speak English as their first language<sup>2</sup>. The most common languages spoken other than English are south Asian and European languages.

**Table 2: Top 10 languages spoken by school pupils in Oxfordshire**

First language	Number of Primary School Pupils	First language	Number of Secondary School Pupils
English	42580	English	33220
Panjabi	590	Panjabi	370
Urdu	560	Urdu	310
Polish	420	Polish	190
Bengali	330	Bengali	180
Portuguese	260	Portuguese	150
Arabic	260	Chinese	150
French	190	Arabic	90
Tagalog/Filipino	150	Tagalog/Filipino	90
Malayalam	140	Nepali	70

Source: Schools Census, Spring 2010

- Languages spoken by children are closely connected with, but not necessarily the same, as those spoken by adults. For example: students or transient migrant workers may not have dependents or may not choose to bring them across.
- That children speak a 'primary language' other than English does not necessarily mean that either the child or other family member do not also speak English well.

**Table 3: Interpretation requests made to Oxfordshire Primary Care Trust**

Interpretation Requests 2009/10	
Portuguese	225
Polish	204
Pashto	76
Mandarin	67
Arabic	60

Source: Oxfordshire Primary Care Trust, 2010

The chart above demonstrates what languages are requested. This indicates that an individual requires a public service and is not confident of their English comprehension. South Asian languages are still requested but, as the table shows, it is recent migrant languages such as Portuguese, Polish and Pashto which are in greatest demand.

<sup>2</sup> Data from the annual School Census, 2009. The School Census gives the clearest picture of the variety of languages spoken by children across Oxfordshire

## Ethnicity in Oxfordshire, 2010

### Languages and Local Area

The tables below identify the first language of primary age pupils *other than English*; and separately the main wards where English is a secondary language. Numbers are rounded to intervals of 50 and numbers below 50 are not listed.

#### Cherwell

Languages	Numbers
Punjabi	200
Urdu	200
Polish	150
Portuguese	50
Malayalam	50
Chinese <i>in secondary school</i>	50

Wards	Number
Banbury Grimsbury and Castle	250
Banbury Neithrope	150
Banbury Ruscote	100
Kidlington South	100
Banbury Hardwick	50
Kidlington North	50
Bicester Town	50

#### Oxford

Languages	Number
Punjabi	350
Urdu	350
Bengali	250
Arabic	200
Portuguese	150
Polish	100
Albanian	100

Wards	Number
Cowley Marsh	250
Cowley	250
Rose Hill and Iffley	200
Lye Valley	150
Marston	150
Blackbird Leys	150
Barton and Sandhills	150

#### South Oxfordshire

Languages	Number
Polish	50
French	50
Bengali	50

Wards	Number
Didcot Ladygrove	50
Berinsfield	50
Henley North	50
Didcot Park	50

#### The Vale of White Horse

Languages	Number
Arabic	50*
Polish	50
French	50

Wards	Number
Shrivenham	100
Abingdon Abbey and Barton	50
North Hinksey and Wytham	50

\*The majority of the Arabic speaking population are resident in Shrivenham

#### West Oxfordshire

Languages	Number
Polish	50
Portuguese	50

Wards	Number
Witney East	50
Carterton North East	50

## Population change

Oxfordshire's population grew by more than 28,000 people from 2001 to 2007. Over this time, the number of White British and White Irish has decreased by almost 3,000, whilst the number of people belonging to all other ethnic groups has increased by 31,000.

Growth may be due to a number of reasons such as: international migration; a higher proportion of children per family; or as a natural consequence of a younger age profile amongst BAME groups compared to the White British population. It is important to avoid assumptions as reasons will vary from community to community.

Population change does have implications for people planning services as it affects investment. If population change is influenced by migration, services may need to consider how to reach to individuals that maybe aren't aware of what is available or include more interpretation facilities. Sudden change can have an impact on established communities: at the end of the document there is a detailed summary by district.

**Table 4: Population change by ethnic group in Oxfordshire, 2001 to 2007**

Ethnic group	mid-2001	mid-2007	Change (no. of people)	% change
<b>All Groups</b>	<b>607,300</b>	<b>635,500</b>	<b>28,200</b>	<b>4.6</b>
White: British	545,600	543,200	-2,400	-0.4
White: Irish	7,600	7,100	-500	-6.6
White: Other White	24,100	33,000	8,900	36.9
Mixed: White and Black Caribbean	2,100	2,900	800	38.1
Mixed: White and Black African	800	1,400	600	75.0
Mixed: White and Asian	2,300	3,300	1,000	43.5
Mixed: Other Mixed	2,000	2,800	800	40.0
Asian or Asian British: Indian	4,200	8,400	4,200	100.0
Asian or Asian British: Pakistani	4,100	6,100	2,000	48.8
Asian or Asian British: Bangladeshi	1,200	1,900	700	58.3
Asian or Asian British: Other Asian	1,300	2,600	1,300	100.0
Black or Black British: Black Caribbean	2,500	3,900	1,400	56.0
Black or Black British: Black African	2,100	5,000	2,900	138.1
Black or Black British: Other Black	500	800	300	60.0
Chinese or Other Ethnic Group: Chinese	3,900	7,300	3,400	87.2
Chinese or Other Ethnic Group: Other	3,100	5,800	2,700	87.1

Source: Office for National Statistics estimates of ethnicity, mid 2007 (experimental statistics)

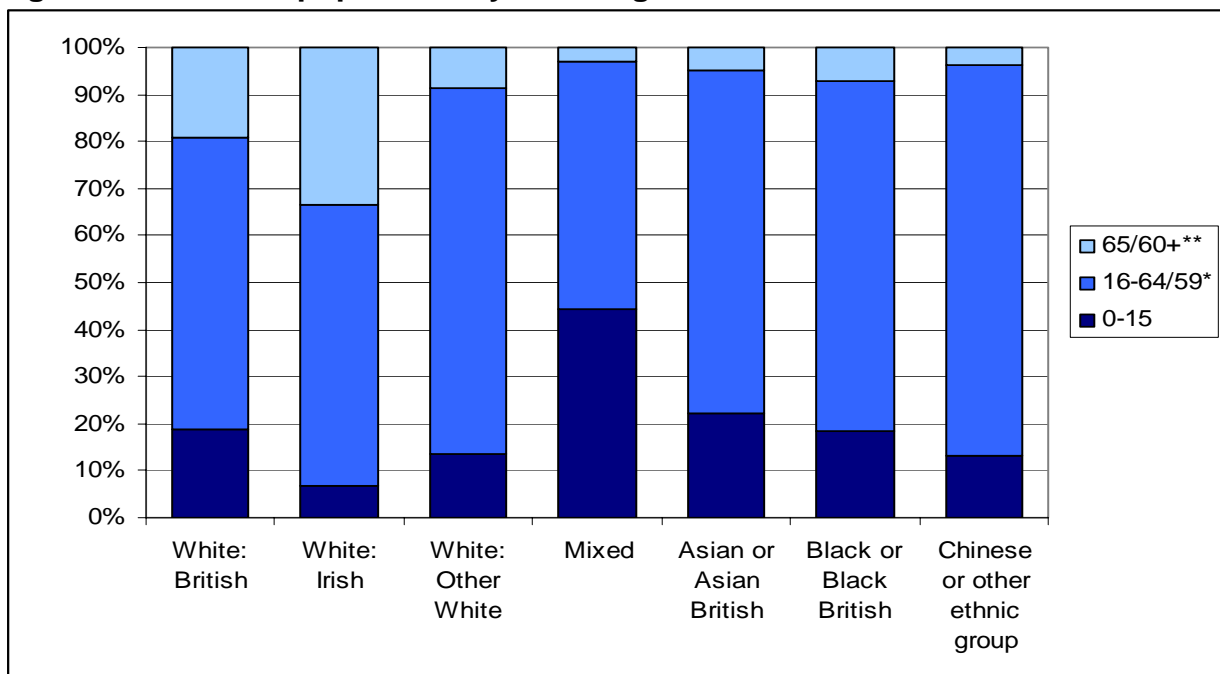


**Age profile**

The ethnic minority populations living in Oxfordshire have a younger age profile than the White British population (figure 4).

- Less than 10% of the population of all the broad ethnic groups in Oxfordshire are of pensionable age<sup>3</sup>, compared with 19% of white British (93% of all people of pensionable age in Oxfordshire are White British). The only exception to this is the high proportion of older White Irish people (33%).
- 44% of people of mixed ethnic origin are aged 0-15 years
- 83% of the Chinese or other ethnic group are of working age

**Figure 4 Ethnic population by broad age band**



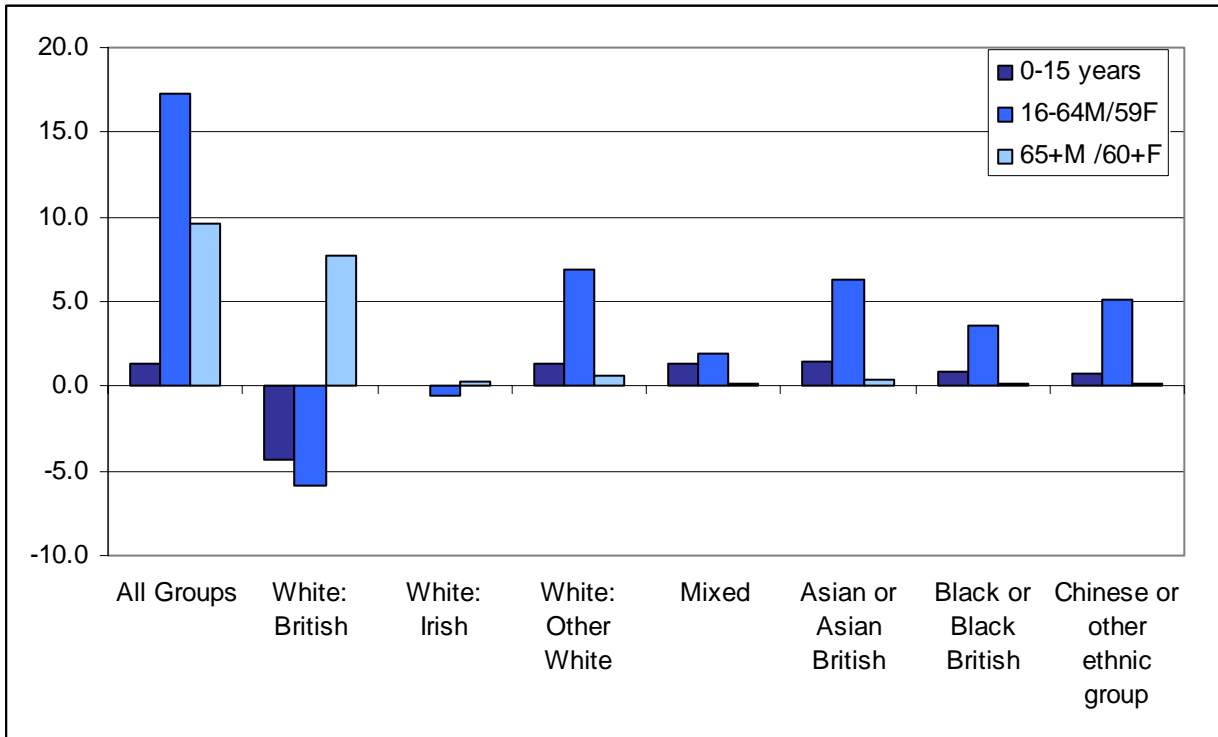
Source: Office for National Statistics estimates of ethnicity, mid 2007 (experimental statistics)

There is a higher proportion of primary school children from a mixed (5%) or south Asian (5.4%) background<sup>4</sup> than in the wider population (1.6% mixed and 3% south Asian people). In contrast there are a slightly lower proportion of Chinese children (1.4%) in primary school than the 2.1% of Chinese people in the population. This indicates that the growth in the Chinese population is primarily from migration.

<sup>3</sup> Males aged 65 years and over, females aged 60 years and over

<sup>4</sup> The DfE School Census is a statutory return for all maintained schools that is carried out three times a year, it includes data on ethnicity and language for all children of school age attending a maintained school in the county.

**Figure 5** Change in age profile, 2001 to 2007



Source: Office for National Statistics estimates of ethnicity, mid 2007 (experimental statistics)

**Annex 1 Population change by district**

<b>Cherwell</b>			Change (no. of people)	% change
	<b>mid 2001</b>	<b>mid 2007</b>		
All Groups	132.0	137.6	5.6	4.24
White: British	122.0	122.2	0.2	0.16
White: Irish	1.4	1.4	0.0	0.00
White: Other White	3.3	5.3	2.0	60.61
Mixed: White and Black Caribbean	0.5	0.6	0.1	20.00
Mixed: White and Black African	0.2	0.3	0.1	50.00
Mixed: White and Asian	0.4	0.6	0.2	50.00
Mixed: Other Mixed	0.4	0.6	0.2	50.00
Asian or Asian British: Indian	0.8	1.3	0.5	62.50
Asian or Asian British: Pakistani	1.1	1.6	0.5	45.45
Asian or Asian British: Bangladeshi	0.1	0.2	0.1	100.00
Asian or Asian British: Other Asian	0.2	0.5	0.3	150.00
Black or Black British: Black Caribbean	0.4	0.7	0.3	75.00
Black or Black British: Black African	0.2	0.8	0.6	300.00
Black or Black British: Other Black	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.00
Chinese or Other Ethnic Group: Chinese	0.4	0.7	0.3	75.00
Chinese or Other Ethnic Group: Other	0.4	0.8	0.4	100.00

Source: Office for National Statistics estimates of ethnicity (experimental statistics)

<b>Oxford</b>			Change (no. of people)	% change
	<b>mid 2001</b>	<b>mid 2007</b>		
All Groups	135.5	151.0	15.5	11.44
White: British	104.0	108.3	4.3	4.13
White: Irish	2.9	2.4	-0.5	-17.24
White: Other White	11.0	14.3	3.3	30.00
Mixed: White and Black Caribbean	1.0	1.2	0.2	20.00
Mixed: White and Black African	0.4	0.6	0.2	50.00
Mixed: White and Asian	1.0	1.3	0.3	30.00
Mixed: Other Mixed	0.9	1.1	0.2	22.22
Asian or Asian British: Indian	2.4	4.1	1.7	70.83
Asian or Asian British: Pakistani	2.7	3.1	0.4	14.81
Asian or Asian British: Bangladeshi	0.9	1.1	0.2	22.22
Asian or Asian British: Other Asian	0.7	1.1	0.4	57.14
Black or Black British: Black Caribbean	1.7	2.0	0.3	17.65
Black or Black British: Black African	1.4	2.4	1.0	71.43
Black or Black British: Other Black	0.3	0.4	0.1	33.33
Chinese or Other Ethnic Group: Chinese	2.5	4.5	2.0	80.00
Chinese or Other Ethnic Group: Other	1.8	3.1	1.3	72.22

Source: Office for National Statistics estimates of ethnicity (experimental statistics)



## Ethnicity in Oxfordshire, 2010

<b>South Oxfordshire</b>			Change (no. of people)	% change
	mid 2001	mid 2007		
All Groups	128.3	128.4	0.1	0.08
White: British	120.3	114.5	-5.8	-4.82
White: Irish	1.3	1.3	0.0	0.00
White: Other White	4.0	5.7	1.7	42.50
Mixed: White and Black Caribbean	0.3	0.4	0.1	33.33
Mixed: White and Black African	0.1	0.2	0.1	100.00
Mixed: White and Asian	0.3	0.5	0.2	66.67
Mixed: Other Mixed	0.3	0.4	0.1	33.33
Asian or Asian British: Indian	0.4	1.4	1.0	250.00
Asian or Asian British: Pakistani	0.1	0.6	0.5	500.00
Asian or Asian British: Bangladeshi	0.1	0.2	0.1	100.00
Asian or Asian British: Other Asian	0.2	0.4	0.2	100.00
Black or Black British: Black Caribbean	0.2	0.5	0.3	150.00
Black or Black British: Black African	0.2	0.8	0.6	300.00
Black or Black British: Other Black	0.0	0.1	0.1	
Chinese or Other Ethnic Group:				
Chinese	0.3	0.7	0.4	133.33
Chinese or Other Ethnic Group: Other	0.3	0.7	0.4	133.33

Source: Office for National Statistics estimates of ethnicity (experimental statistics)

<b>Vale of White Horse</b>			Change (no. of people)	% change
	mid 2001	mid 2007		
All Groups	115.8	117.0	1.2	1.04
White: British	107.9	104.3	-3.6	-3.34
White: Irish	1.2	1.2	0.0	0.00
White: Other White	3.9	5.1	1.2	30.77
Mixed: White and Black Caribbean	0.2	0.4	0.2	100.00
Mixed: White and Black African	0.1	0.2	0.1	100.00
Mixed: White and Asian	0.3	0.5	0.2	66.67
Mixed: Other Mixed	0.3	0.4	0.1	33.33
Asian or Asian British: Indian	0.4	1.0	0.6	150.00
Asian or Asian British: Pakistani	0.1	0.5	0.4	400.00
Asian or Asian British: Bangladeshi	0.1	0.2	0.1	100.00
Asian or Asian British: Other Asian	0.2	0.4	0.2	100.00
Black or Black British: Black Caribbean	0.1	0.4	0.3	300.00
Black or Black British: Black African	0.1	0.6	0.5	500.00
Black or Black British: Other Black	0.0	0.1	0.1	
Chinese or Other Ethnic Group:				
Chinese	0.5	1.0	0.5	100.00
Chinese or Other Ethnic Group: Other	0.3	0.7	0.4	133.33

Source: Office for National Statistics estimates of ethnicity (experimental statistics)

## Ethnicity in Oxfordshire, 2010

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<b>West Oxfordshire</b>	<b>mid 2001</b>	<b>mid 2007</b>	<b>Change (no. of people)</b>	<b>% change</b>
All Groups	95.7	101.6	5.9	6.17
White: British	91.4	93.9	2.5	2.74
White: Irish	0.8	0.9	0.1	12.50
White: Other White	1.9	2.6	0.7	36.84
Mixed: White and Black Caribbean	0.2	0.3	0.1	50.00
Mixed: White and Black African	0.1	0.2	0.1	100.00
Mixed: White and Asian	0.2	0.4	0.2	100.00
Mixed: Other Mixed	0.2	0.3	0.1	50.00
Asian or Asian British: Indian	0.2	0.6	0.4	200.00
Asian or Asian British: Pakistani	0.1	0.3	0.2	200.00
Asian or Asian British: Bangladeshi	0.0	0.1	0.1	
Asian or Asian British: Other Asian	0.1	0.2	0.1	100.00
Black or Black British: Black Caribbean	0.1	0.3	0.2	200.00
Black or Black British: Black African	0.1	0.5	0.4	400.00
Black or Black British: Other Black	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.00
Chinese or Other Ethnic Group:				
Chinese	0.2	0.4	0.2	100.00
Chinese or Other Ethnic Group: Other	0.2	0.6	0.4	200.00

Source: Office for National Statistics estimates of ethnicity (experimental statistics)

## **Annex 2      Note on data sources**

- A) The most current and comparable source of data on ethnicity is the experimental **Population estimates by ethnic group** released by the Office for National Statistics (to be revised in July/August 2010). These are available for mid-2001 to mid-2007 to local authority level. The methodology used to produce these figures can be found at the [Office for National Statistics](#) website.
- B) **Mosaic Origins** is a software and data application that enables organisations to classify people according to the part of the world from which their forebears are most likely to have originated. Area summaries can be produced showing concentrations of origins at a local level. Further information on how Mosaic Origins works can be found by contacting the [Oxfordshire Data Observatory](#).
- C) Oxfordshire County Council carries out an **annual census of school pupils**. The census records ethnicity and first language of pupils in maintained primary and secondary schools in Oxfordshire. For further information contact the [Children Young People and Families directorate](#).

There is a range of 'country of origin' data on people migrating into the county (including ONS migration indicators, National Insurance Number registrations, the Worker Registration Scheme and data on GP registrations). This data comes with extensive caveats and will be covered in a separate briefing on migration.

For further information visit the **Oxfordshire Data Observatory**

[www.oxfordshireobservatory.info](http://www.oxfordshireobservatory.info)

or contact Peter Frobisher on 01865 815870 email [peter.frobisher@oxfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:peter.frobisher@oxfordshire.gov.uk)