

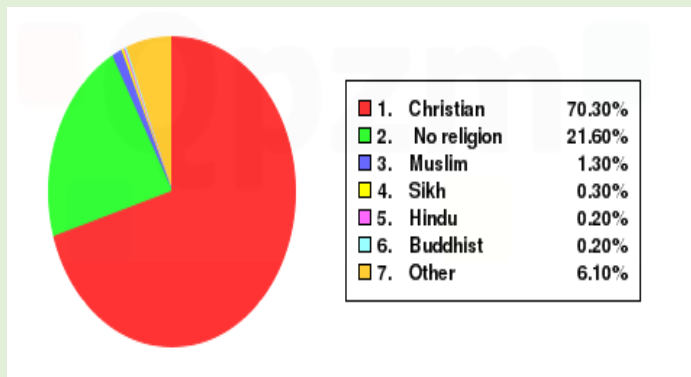
SUBJECT: Religious Education

UNIT: Year 8 – Muslims in Britain



Muslims in Sunderland

Sunderland is made up of many different religions as shown in the chart below. Muslims make up 1.3% of the population.



An example of where Muslims traditions are represented in Sunderland is in mosques. There are five mosques within Sunderland, including the Sunderland Central Mosque located on Chester Road.

Sunni and Shia Muslims

There are many differences between Sunni and Shia Muslims, including:

- There are more Sunni Muslims than Shia.
- Shia Muslims call a mosque “Imambargah”.
- Sunni Muslims pray 5 times a day.
- Shia Muslims combine prayers to pray 3 times a day.
- They disagree over who should succeed the Prophet Muhammad.
- Ramadan starts on different days.
- Shia Muslims wait until there is no light in the sky before breaking their fast.
- Sunni Muslims break their fast at sunset.

Islamophobia

Islamophobia is a dislike of or prejudice against Islam or Muslims, especially as a political force. Muslim’s can be discriminated against due to their religion and are often branded with stereotypes due to the actions on extremist groups, when in reality Islam promotes peace and kindness.

How do modern Muslim’s cope with the challenges of living in Britain today?

- Challenges include Islamophobia and Extremist groups who manipulate the words of the Quran to commit acts of violence.
- Groups of people **claiming** to be part of a religion are carrying out attacks on innocent people across the world. Both the IS (the Islamic State) and Boko Haram are terrorist groups.
- **Ijtihad** literally means “to endeavour, strive, put oneself out, work hard.” It forms the basis of the Islamic legal system based on interpretations of the Quran. Ijtihad helps to keep law ever fresh and capable of facing the challenges of new places and times.
- **Jihad** also shares the same root meaning of ‘striving’. However, this is not in a political sense but a personal struggle for faith and against evil.
- Muslim’s gets closer to Allah by performing the five pillars (The five Pillars of Islam form an exercise of Jihad).
- Muslims could overcome such challenges is through Ijtihad. Ijtihad helps to keep law ever fresh and capable of facing the challenges of new places and times. This could help to provide better clarity over Allah’s word and prevent dangerous misinterpretations of Islamic beliefs.