



For Isle of Wight Council

Guide to BME and faith communities on Isle of Wight



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1. Historical data

Beakers

Around 1900 BC the Beaker people arrived - so called from their distinctive pottery. They called the Island *Wibt* (weight) meaning raised or what rises over the sea.

Romans

Then the Romans arrived in 43 AD and translated *Wibt* into the name *Vectis* from the Latin *veho* meaning lifting. The Romans, commanded by Vespasian, conquered the Island in 43 AD and it was ruled by the Emperor Claudius. They set up farming communities based around villas; the remains of two can still be seen. A lack of Roman fortifications on the Island tends to suggest that they lived in harmony with the local inhabitants - it was not uncommon for Romans to fortify an overnight camp.

Saxons

In 495 AD, Cerdic, a Saxon chief and his son Henric invaded Britain and established the kingdom of West-Sax (Wessex). He also conquered the Isle of Wight and slew most of the inhabitants. He repopulated the Island with invited Jutes and Saxons and bestowed the Island on his two nephews, Stuff and Withgar. Life on the Island was stable for about 150 years. The inhabitants were not yet Christians. Caedwalla rooted them out as idolaters and re-peopled the Island with Christians. The Island was the last place in England to receive Christianity.

Danes

In 787 Danish pirates invaded, with plans to make the Island their retreat after raids on the mainland. A hundred years later the Danes once again used the Island as a safe haven after raids along the south coast of England. England fell to William the Conqueror and King Harold was killed in the year 1066. From then until 1295 the Island was peaceful. It was then that the French invasion began to threaten.

The Middle Ages - The French

During the Hundred Years' War, the Island, like much of the south coast, became a target for the marauding French. The French landed at St. Helens but were driven back to their ships by the Islanders. There were no more raids until 1377, when the French laid siege to Carisbrooke Castle. In 1545 a French fleet of about 200 sail came upon the English fleet anchored off St. Helens. A number of forts were built to improve the defence of the Island and the south coast. This was greatly supplemented by England's growing naval power, sufficient to put an end to the French raids.

Tudor & Stuart Period – The Spaniards

The strategic importance of the Island increased with the development of Portsmouth as a permanent naval base. Henry VIII accordingly built additional fortifications on the island at Yarmouth, East & West Cowes and Sandown.

During the reign of Elizabeth I, the Island was again threatened by invasion, this time from Spain. At the outset of the Civil War in 1642, the Parliament assumed control of the Island and retained their control throughout the conflict. In spite of this, King Charles I went to the Island on escaping from imprisonment at Hampton Court in November 1647.

Victorian Times

In the nineteenth century the Island was transformed by the coming of the railways. Queen Victoria took advantage of the island's new accessibility by using Osborne as her retreat. Queen Victoria's affection for Osborne added to the Island's attractions of climate and scenery. Ryde, Sandown, Shanklin & Ventnor expanded from fishing villages to fashionable resorts.

2. BME & ethnic breakdown

Residents

132,731 total population of the Isle of Wight
1,749 from ethnic minority groups
1.32%.

Source: 2001 Census

International Students

265 international students currently study on the Isle of Wight.

Main countries are China, Japan, Thailand and Europe.
Students are also from Russian, Turkey, South Korea, Slovakia and Africa.

The college charge for English lessons, see section 6, page 15.

Tourists

There are 2.5 million visitors a year to the Isle of Wight
155,000 visitors are from overseas.

Despite 9/11 and foot and mouth the proportions of tourist from USA and Canada have now doubled. The USA is once again the most important source of overseas visitors. The proportion originating from France has also increased significantly.

The only active overseas marketing takes place in France, Germany and Holland. However multi cultural cities such as London and Leeds are heavily targeted.

Source: Isle of Wight Tourist Board, 01983 813 818, www.islandbreaks.co.uk, Hal Matthews, Marketing Manager.

Tourism data

Source: Isle of Wight Tourism Activity Monitor, Tourism Year 2002/2003, 4.5, Page 22, Overseas Visitors

Table 1: Reasons for overseas visits

	Trips 000's*
Leisure day trip	55
Holiday	32
VFR:	39
• Staying	34
• day trip	5

Business:	13
• Staying	9
• day trip	4

Table 2: Volume of overseas visitors

The estimated volume of overseas visitors has fluctuated over the last three years. It is now estimated to be level with 1999/2000.

	1999/2000	2000/2001	2001/2002	2002/2003
O/S Visitors	156,000	147,000	162,000	155,000

*N.B. Small sample sizes of overseas visitors can cause fluctuations in data.

Table 3: Origin of overseas visitors

Country	Est'd % of visits 1999/2000 000's	Est'd % of visits 2000/2001 000's	Est'd % of visits 2001/2002 000's	Est'd % of visits 2002/2003 000's
USA	18%	14%	10%	19%
France	7%	6%	7%	13%
Germany	9%	7%	14%	9%
Australia	6%	9%	8%	8%
Netherlands	8%	4%	7%	6%
Canada	5%	5%	3%	6%
Spain	3%	2%	5%	5%
Eire	2%	4%	3%	5%
South Africa	5%	4%	7%	3%
Italy	3%	9%	5%	3%
New Zealand	4%	5%	3%	3%
Sweden	5%	1%	2%	3%
Hong Kong	2%	1%	1%	3%
Switzerland	3%	2%	2%	2%
Japan	2%	2%	2%	1%
Austria	1%	4%	2%	*
Norway	1%	1%	1%	*
Denmark	1%	5%	1%	*
Finland	*	*	4%	*

- Less than 1%

Prisons

There are 1600 inmates in total held within the Isle of Wight's three prisons. Almost 50% are from BME communities.

Inmates access various Island services such as the Hospital, Hospices and Age Concern. Few get released on the Island.

Source: Sue Lucas, Prison Chaplain, Albany Prison, Isle of Wight.

3. Languages spoken

Represented by the schools on the Isle of Wight

Source: EAL Department, Isle of Wight Council

Arabic	3
Afrikaans	1
Bengali	32
Bulgarian	2
Cantonese	6
Czech	1
Danish	1
Ghanaian	2
Farsi	4
French	2
German	15
Gujarat	1
Indonesian	5
Japanese	1
Lao	1
Malayalam	4
Mandinka	1
Portuguese	5
Russian	9
Shona	2
Sowrashtran	1
Spanish	4
Swedish	2
Tagolog	13
Tamil	2
Thai	10
Turkish	2
Ukrainian	1
Urdu	3
Visayan	3
Total	140

4. Religious data

Faith Communities on the Isle of Wight
Source: Census 2001

Faith Group	Number	Percentage
Christian	97,851	73.730
Buddhist	233	0.176
Hindu	126	0.095
Jewish	122	0.092
Muslim	361	0.272
Sikh	32	0.024
Other religions	599	0.451
No religion	22,920	17.270
Religion not stated	10,471	7.890
Total	132,715	100

5. Ethnic data
Source: 2001 Census

Ethnic group	Numbers	Percentage
White British	128440	97.435
White Irish	902	0.477
White Other	1640	1.014
Mixed – White & Black Caribbean	274	0.358
Mixed – White & Black African	68	0.089
Mixed – White & Asian	236	0.119
Mixed Other	136	0.119
Asian British Indian	191	0.119
Asian British Pakistani	87	0
Asian British Bangladeshi	81	0
Asian British Other	67	0
Black or Black British Caribbean	166	0.089
Black or black British African	105	0.089

The 2001 Census has revealed a marked increase in the total non-white population of the Isle of Wight, from 0.7 per cent of the total in 1991 to 1.3 per cent in 2001.

Figures show that of the overall population of 132,731 in 2001, a total of 130,982 (98.68 per cent) were from the white ethnic group and 1,749 (1.32 per cent) from other ethnic groups. The census found that England and Wales had a non-white population of 8.7 per cent of the total.

The second largest ethnic group on the Island in 2001 was mixed white and black Caribbean, with 270 people or 0.2 per cent of the total, followed by mixed white and Asian, with 243 people or just under 0.2 per cent. The ten other specific ethnic groups varied between 35 people and 189 people in total, with non-categorised (or other) ethnic groups comprising 171 people.

In terms of the census figures at ward level (similar in boundary to the 48 council wards), the Island's main towns, particularly Cowes, Newport, Ryde and Ventnor have the largest minority ethnic group populations. In a few wards the minority ethnic group population is close to five per cent of all under 18s.

Census figures for country of birth revealed that 127,438 (96 per cent) of the Island's population, were born in the United Kingdom, and 5,293 (four per cent) born elsewhere. The next highest totals for country of birth were Western Europe – EU countries (1,307 or one per cent) and Asia (1,104 or 0.8 per cent).

6. Available provision for BME & faith communities

Faith based support

Baha'i Community

Contact: Judy Digby, 16 Wellington court, Augusta Road, Ryde, 01983 566 376
judyclare@freeuk.com Access info www.bahai.org.uk/isleofwight

General activities: The Baha'i community meet on occasion but most practice religion in their own homes. Sessions are used for discussion, worship, tranquillity zones and holy day celebrations. Faith is applied to social problems where possible.

There is an elected Local Spiritual Assembly in Ryde, plus members in Sandown and Freshwater. The Baha'i Faith has been established in the Isle of Wight since the early 1960s.

Buddhist Community

Contact: David Downer, 19 Watergate Road, Newport, Isle of Wight, 01983 520795,
david@dvdowner.demon.co.uk,

General activities: The Isle of Wight Buddhist Group is held at the above address in Newport every week. The group has discussion forums, meditation, spiritual study and seminars from visiting monks from different traditions of Buddhism.

The group is open to all nationalities and different strands of Buddhism.

Christianity

There are some 98,000 Christians on the Isle of Wight- 74% of the population.

There are more than 130 churches on the Isle of Wight.

Church of England = 39 Churches

Catholic = 10 Catholic Churches

Contact: Tibor Szende, 7 Atherley Road, Shanklin, Isle of Wight,
swightcatholic@tiscali.co.uk

General activities: In addition to gathering the congregation spiritually, this Church also provides a social base including bingo, themed dinners and singing hymns in other languages.

Methodist = 29 Churches

Baptist = 9 Churches

Evangelist = 6 Churches

Church of the Latter Day Saints = Congregation of 600

Contact: Bishop David Ellis, Shide Road, Newport, Isle of Wight 01983 532833.

General activities: The congregation fund all the facilities to meet the needs of the community such as a multi purpose chapel, Sunday ceremony, youth club, disabled access, nursery, font, Sunday school, social functions, classrooms, visits from Missionaries. The Family History Centre is also free and open to everyone.

Hinduism

There are no recognised Hindu organisations on the Isle of Wight according to Anil Banot, Secretary of the Hindu Council of the UK.

Humanism

Contact: Mr Derek Stirman, 21 Watergate Road, Newport, PO30 1XP, 01983 523294

General activities: The Humanist Group has monthly meetings in each other's homes including discussion forums. The Humanist Group also perform Humanist ceremonies such as funerals, weddings and naming ceremonies. Members are available to speak in schools.

Humanists believe in improving life on earth with no god or superstition. Many may identify with the concept of Humanism but may not class themselves as Humanists.

Islam

Contact: Mr. Shonawar Miah, Jame e Mosque and Islamic Community Centre, Chapel Street, Newport, Isle of Wight.

General activities: The Mosque is open daily for prayer. Jummah, the Friday prayer, often has up to 100 worshippers of all nationalities (Currently including Bengalis, Pakistanis, Turkish, Sudanese and Egyptian).

Jehovah's Witnesses

The Isle of Wight is home to 600 Jehovah's Witnesses in seven congregations. Proportionally that is one for every 250 people, compared to one for every 450 people across the rest of the UK.

Contact: Kingdom Hall, Petticoat Lane, Isle of Wight, 01983 825 004

Judaism

Contact: Louis Lawrence, 21 Castle Court, St Lawrence, Ventnor, Isle of Wight, PO38 1UE, 01983 856860 louislawrence@onetel.net.uk

General activities: The Jewish Society is informal contact and support for Jewish people on the Island; they are also available to attend schools and social clubs to give talks on Judaism.

Education is needed to counter racist stereotypes.

Paganism

Contact: Robin Bowen, 21 Priory Road, Carisbrooke, Isle of Wight, **PO30 5JU**
01983 533 185 pfwight@pagans.demon.co.uk www.pagans.demon.co.uk

General activities: PF Wight (Pagan Federation) is the Island Pagan Group which organises Seasonal observations (Solstice Sunrise or May Eve at the Lonstone), environmental activities (Beach clearing or litter picking), monthly moots (social meeting for Pagans or those interested in Paganism). PF Wight is available to conduct many different types of services as required, ranging from handfastings (marriages), passings (funerals), earth healing and seasonal festivals.

Plymouth Brethrens

General activities: The Isle of Wight Plymouth Brethren are self sufficient. It is believed that they have their own school.

Sikh

No Sikh communities on the Isle of Wight.

Multi faith venues

Sea of Compassion, Newport

Contact: Sai Shivam, 2 St Johns Mews, High Street, Oakfield, Ryde, Isle of Wight,
01983 810 659.

General activities: All Faiths Temple open everyday to members of all faiths. Informal activities include prayer, meditation, relaxation, discussion, devotional songs and celebration of religious festivals.

Sahaja Yoga practice, Ventnor

Contact: Sean and Amanda Kelly, 29 Dudley Road, Ventnor, Isle of Wight, 01983
855 221

General activities: Practical meetings are held on Mondays in Ryde and Wednesdays in Brading. Activities include meditation, sharing experiences and watching videos. This is open to all religions, ages and ethnicities. Organisation is available to teach in college. There is no cost.

Sahaja Yoga is a spiritual way of life based on Hindu scriptures, with principles from major religions. The practice of Yoga is harnessing the connection of spirit with the central nervous system.

St Mary's Hospital, Multi faith prayer space, Newport

Contact: Rev. Gregory Clifton Smith, Chaplaincy Office, St Mary's Hospital, Newport, Isle of Wight, PO30 5TG, 01983 534639, gregory.clifton-smith@iow.nhs.uk

General activities: Neutral Chapel which can be used by all faiths.

NB Increasing amounts of multi cultural staff, largest employer in the area

Minority stats	Number	% of hospital staff
Asian	102	3.4
Non white total	340	11.337

Source: St Mary's Hospital, May 2003

Non faith based support

Amnesty International, Newport

Contact: Mr Derek Stirman, 21 Watergate Road, Newport, PO30 1XP, 01983 523294

General activities: Fundraising, Letter writing, Street demonstrations, Campaigns, Discussions, Plan events (pop concert/ walks book sales). 100 local members and 214 off the island, objectives are set by the National Amnesty International and are not local.

Citizens Advice Bureau, Island wide

Contact: Bob Thompson, Exchange House, St Cross Lane, Newport Isle of Wight, PO 30 5BZ, Tel: 0845 1202959

General activities: Free advice, guidance and support about your rights.

College, Newport

Contact: Becci Fysh, International Office, Medina Way, Newport, Isle of Wight, 01983 526631, becci.fysh@iowcollege.ac.uk, www.iwightc.ac.uk

General activities: Tailored programmes for groups of international students, higher education and undergraduate courses open to international students. English language courses are offered at three different levels: Foundation, Intermediate and Upper Intermediate. Classes take place every weekday morning and some afternoons.

Cambridge Examination Courses:

The Key English Test ('KET') Programme - This programme will allow you to improve basic English grammar, reading writing and listening skills.

Preliminary English Test ('PET') - This intermediate level test consists of four parts: Reading, writing, listening and speaking.

First Certificate in English ('FCE') - A pass at 'FCE' indicates a high level of achievement in English. This class is open to good intermediate level learners. The exam consists of five papers: Reading, writing, listening, speaking and Use of English (Grammar). The recommended duration of this course is 1 year.

Advanced Level Course ('CAE') - This high level programme will help you to use English effectively in a wide range of situations. The duration of the 'CAE' course is one year.

The International English Language Testing System ('IELTS') - 'IELTS' is a recognised university entry qualification. You will be tested in the areas of Listening, Reading, Writing and Speaking. British universities usually require a score of 6.0, out of a maximum of 9.0, for entry to their courses.

ConneXions, Island wide

Contact: Andrew Preskey, Area Manager, Careers office, High Street, Newport, 01983 527 565, andypreskey@vtis.com

General activities: Guidance, advice and assistance service for 13 – 19 year olds on the island. ConneXions have an open door policy plus school visits and outreach off site in sheltered housing, rural settings and places like McDonalds. They also help with transport difficulties and cultural and physical needs.

Christian Respite Centre, Sandown

Contact: Joy Bould, 35 Carter Street, Sandown, Isle of Wight, PO36 8DQ, Tel 01983 408086, Fax 01983 865017, joybould@aol.com

General activities: The Islands only hostel is open to everyone. It has 24hr supported accommodation, help in resettlement, signposts towards support agencies, Links with college and training centres, basic skills, workshops, outreach and support and guidance with everyday difficulties.

Cuisine

Chinese

Bamboo Garden, 7 Mill Hill, Cowes, 01983 295852

Indian

Bahar Tandoori Halal Restaurant, 44 High Street, Cowes, 01983 200378

Cowes Tandoori Restaurant, 40 High Street, Cowes, 01983 296710

Ryde Tandori, 45 Union Street, Ryde, 01983 563165/615844

Fatima Indian Cuisine, 45 School Green Road, Freshwater, 01983 755121

Taj Tandoori, 95 High Street, Sandown, 01983 407770

Jasmine Indian Cuisine, 7 Regent Street, Shanklin, 01983 863729

Maharajah Indian Tandoori Restaurant, 55 High Street, Shanklin, 01983 867083

Italian

Valentino's Restaurant, 93 High Street, Carisbrooke, 01983 522458

Thai: Mai Thai Restaurant, Carlton House, 20 Holyrod Street, Newport, 1983 524949

Tonino's Italian Restaurant, 8/9 Shooters Hill, Cowes, 01983 298464

Michelangelo Italian Restaurant, 30 St. Thomas Street, Ryde, 01983 811966

Hideaway Café, Cliff Path Street, Boniface Cliff Road, Shanklin, 01983 864145

South African

Ferrets Restaurant, 23 High Street, Shanklin, 01983 862057

Thai

The Baan Thai Restaurant, Bath Road, Cowes, 01983 291917

Thai (Khrua) Orchid, High Street, Seaview, 01983 568899

Siam Pearl Thai Restaurant, 59 High Street, Shanklin, 01983 862814

EAL Support, Island wide

Contact: Claire Reid, Thompson House, Sandy Lane, Newport, Isle of Wight, PO30 3NA, 01983 533 523, claire.reid@iow.gov.uk

General activities: Direct language teaching and support for children and schools.

Filipino Health Workers Association (FHWA)

Contact: Tony Cortes, St Mary's Hospital, 01983 534448

General activities: Organisation is open to health workers, their extended families and non health care individuals. Organisation offers general support and social events. Members pay £10 up front and £5 each week, which contributes to emergency funds; members receive financial assistance in event of death of dependants or critical illness.

Purpose of group is to advance the interest of Filipino health workers in the Isle of Wight; provide members with a vehicle with the conduct of its activities and to support the mission and vision of the NHS trust.

Law Centre, Island wide

Contact: Matt Thatcher, Exchange House, St Cross Lane, Newport Isle of Wight, PO 30 5BZ, Tel 01983 524715/ 01983 528634, Fax 01983 522606.

General activities: Free legal action for the community, advocacy, legal advice, representation and support.

Parent Partnership, Island wide

Contact: Dorothy Harrington, Parent Partnership, 11 Orchard Street, Newport, 01983 825548 dot.harrington@iow.gov.uk

General activities: Advice and guidance for parents of children with special educational needs, primary or secondary schools, leaflets about services and processes are translated into Bengali.

Polish Society, Newport

Contact: Mr O Z Hulacki, 18 Coppins Bridge, Newport, PO30 2BZ, 01983 883340

General activities: The Polish Society meets once a month to eat, drink, socialise and engage in discussion. Once a month they congregate at the Catholic Church where a Priest comes to conduct a Polish Service.

There are approximately 300 polish people (3 generations) on the Isle of Wight.

Rural Community Council, Island wide

Contact: Marian Prowes, 3 Langley Court, Pyle Street, Newport, PO30 1LA,
Switchboard 01983 524058, marian.prowse@iwrcc.org.uk

General activities: The Rural Community Council links all the community groups in the island and provides meeting rooms, accessibility audits, transport training and newsletters.

Quay Arts Centre, Newport

Contact: Stephen Munn, Centre Director, Sea Street, Newport, Isle of Wight PO30 5BD, 01983 822490, www.quayarts.org s.munn@quayarts.org

General activities: Cultural appreciation, World Music, Exhibitions, visual arts classes, dance, drama, Workshops, conferences, training venue, School college trip.

The aim of the art's centre is to bring to the Isle of Wight some of the best of what is available nationally and further a field and embrace cultural diversity.

The Island Rainbow Community, Shanklin

Contact: Sue Loveday, 01983 401343, loveday@rainbows2.fsnet.co.uk

General activities: Island multi cultural friendship and informal support group, Bulk orders afro hair products, Available for talks.

Turkish Football Team, Shanklin

Contact: Musa Sen 07900 430445

General activities: Just started. Fairly informal.

Vectis Monitoring Group, Island wide

Contact: Jane Turner, Secretary, 01983 293511, PO BOX coming soon.
Jane.Turner@iow.nhs.uk

General activities: Combating racism and promoting multi culturalism on the island by Mentoring, Support, Advice, Education, Lobbying for change and monitoring the police.