

Languages Spoken in Schools in Lewisham Spring 2012

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Purpose

This paper outlines the main languages (other than English) spoken in schools in Lewisham, and maps their distribution across the borough.

Background

In August 2011 the Greater London Authority published pan-London data on the languages spoken by pupils in schools at borough level (rounded to the nearest 10 children) and at Middle Super Output Area level (in London quintiles)¹. The source of this data was the Annual School Census 2008.

This report presents a similar analysis based on the April 2012 School Census in Lewisham, using local distributions rather than London-wide quintiles.

What the data shows

There are over 170 mother tongue languages spoken by pupils in Lewisham schools. The following tables show the language speakers classified by Geozone..

Geozone	Language	Speakers
International	English / Believed to be English	23094
	French	1022
	Spanish	357
	Portuguese	266
	Arabic	247
	(Algeria, Iraq, Morocco, Sudan, Yemen, any other)	

Geozone	Language	Speakers	
European	Albanian/Shqip	321	
	Russian	134	
	Bulgarian	47	
	Latvian	16	
	Croatian	13	
	Serbian	11	
	Ukrainian	11	
	others, includes	31	
	Armenian, Bosnian, Georgian, Icelandic		
	Macedonian, Maltese, Norwegian		

¹ <http://data.london.gov.uk/datastore/package/languages-spoken-pupils-borough-msoa>

Geozone	Language	Speakers
EU	Polish	387
	Italian	139
	German	118
	Lithuanian	113
	Dutch/Flemish	75
	Romanian	66
	Czech	31
	Greek	27
	Hungarian	27
	Swedish	27
	Slovak	13
	Danish	11
	others, included Catalan, Estonian, Finnish, Romani (international), Romanian, Romany/English Sardinian, Scots, Slovenian, Welsh/Cymraeg	32

Geozone	Language	Speakers
East/Southern/Central Africa	Akan (Twi/Asante)	165
	Lingala	106
	Luganda	80
	Shona	69
	Swahili/Kiswahili	69
	Akan (Fante)	24
	Acholi	10
	Bemba	10
	others, includes Afrikaans, Akan/Twi-Fante, Chichewa/Nyanja Ewondo, Kalenjin, Kikongo, Kikuyu/Gikuyu Kinyarwanda, Kirundi, Lango, Luo, Mauritian/Seychelles Creole, Ndebele Runyakitara, Swahili, Tonga/Chitonga, Xhosa, Zulu	61

Geozone	Language	Speakers
North African	Somali	412
	Tigrinya	24
	Amharic	21
	others (Berber/Tamazight, Tigre)	<5

Geozone	Language	Speakers
West African	Yoruba	807
	Igbo	241
	Krio	98
	Urhobo-Isoko	58
	Edo/Bini	52
	Ga	36
	Manding/Malinke	20
	Ewe	19
	Fula/Fulfulde-Pulaar	13

	Hausa	11
	others, includes Adangme, Epira, Efik-Ibibio, Esan/Ishan, Gurenne/Frafra, Idoma, Igala, Ijo, Itsekiri, Kpelle, Mende, Temne, Tiv, West-African Creole Portuguese, West-African Pidgin English, Wolof	49

Geozone	Language	Speakers
South Asian	Tamil	792
	Urdu	207
	Bengali (other than Sylheti))	172
	Bengali (Sylheti)	25
	Panjabi	100
	Hindi	62
	Gujarati	40
	Malayalam	34
	others, includes (Konkani, Marathi, Nepali, Pahari, Sinhala, Telugu, Tulu	49

Geozone	Language	Speakers
West/Central Asian	Turkish	402
	Pashto/Pakhto	101
	Persian/Farsi	100
	Kurdish	61
	others, includes Assyrian/Aramaic, Balochi, Dari Persian, Farsi/Persian (Any Other), Hebrew, Kazakh, Terkmen, Uzbek	20

Geozone	Language	Speakers
South East Asia	Malay/Indonesian	11
	others, includes Burmese/Myanma, Visayan/Bisaya, Indonesian/Bahasa Indonesia, Javanese, Malay (Any Other)	11

Geozone	Language	Speakers	
East Asian	Vietnamese	221	
	Chinese (Cantonese)	154	
	Chinese (Mandarin/Putonghua)	102	
	Chinese (Any Other)	93	
	Chinese	41	
		All Chinese	390
	Tagalog/Filipino	40	
	Japanese	37	
	Thai	26	
others (Filipino, Iban, Korean, Mongolian, Tagalog)	10		

Geozone	Language	Speakers
Caribbean	Caribbean Creole English	202
	Caribbean Creole French	14

Geozone	Language	Children
Others	Other than English / Believed to be Other than English includes British Sign Language, Sign Language (other), Samoan Yiddish, others (unspecified)	1540

missing data	Classification Pending	21
	(missing)	311
	Refused	54
	Information not obtained	324

The following table shows the non-English languages, in descending order of numbers.

Language	Speakers
French	1022
Yoruba	807
Tamil	792
Somali	412
Turkish	402
Polish	387
Spanish	357
Albanian/Shqip	321
Igbo	241
Vietnamese	221
Urdu	207
Caribbean Creole English	202
Portuguese (Any Other)	167
Akan (Twi/Asante)	165
Chinese (Cantonese)	154
Bengali (Any Other)	153
Believed to be English	136
Russian	134
Italian	133
German	118
Lithuanian	113
Arabic (Any Other)	109
Lingala	106
Chinese (Mandarin/Putonghua)	102
Pashto/Pakhto	101
Panjabi	100
Persian/Farsi	100
Krio	98
Chinese (Any Other)	92
Luganda	80
Dutch/Flemish	75
Arabic (Algeria)	74
Shona	69

Swahili/Kiswahili	69
Romanian	66
Other Language	65
Hindi	62
Kurdish	60
Urhobo-Isoko	58
Refused	54
Edo/Bini	52
Portuguese	50
Portuguese (Brazil)	49
Bulgarian	47
Chinese	41
Tagalog/Filipino	40
Gujarati	40
Japanese	37
Ga	36
Malayalam	34
Czech	31
Greek	27
Hungarian	27
Swedish	27
Thai	26
Arabic (Morocco)	26
Bengali (Sylheti)	25
Akan (Fante)	24
Tigrinya	24
Amharic	21
Classification Pending	21
Manding/Malinke	20
Ewe	19
Bengali	18
Latvian	16
Arabic (Iraq)	16
Telugu	15
Caribbean Creole French	14
Slovak	13
Croatian	13
Fula/Fulfulde-Pulaar	13
Sinhala	12
Danish	11
Serbian	11
Ukrainian	11
Malay/Indonesian	11
Hausa	11
Acholi	10
Bemba	10
Arabic	10
Afrikaans	9
Georgian	9

Akan/Twi-Fante	8
Kikuyu/Gikuyu	8
Nepali	8
Finnish	7
Arabic (Yemen)	7
West-African Creole Portuguese	7
Italian (Sicilian)	6
Macedonian	6
Marathi	6
Burmese/Myanma	6
Itsekiri	6
Chichewa/Nyanja	5
Zulu	5
Romani (International)	5
Arabic (Sudan)	5
British Sign Language	5
Ebira	5
Ewondo	<5
Xhosa	<5
Romanian (Romania)	<5
Maltese	<5
Temne	<5
Wolof	<5
Dari Persian	<5
Farsi/Persian (Any Other)	<5
Filipino	<5
Korean	<5
Estonian	<5
Romany/English Romanes	<5
Sardinian	<5
Scots	<5
Armenian	<5
Bosnian	<5
Icelandic	<5
Norwegian	<5
Pahari (Pakistan)	<5
Sindhi	<5
Efik-Ibibio	<5
Ijo (Any)	<5
Mende	<5
West-African Pidgin English	<5
Balochi	<5
Hebrew	<5
Kikongo	<5
Kinyarwanda	<5
Lango (Uganda)	<5
Luo (Kenya/Tanzania)	<5
Runyakitara	<5
Swahili (Any Other)	<5

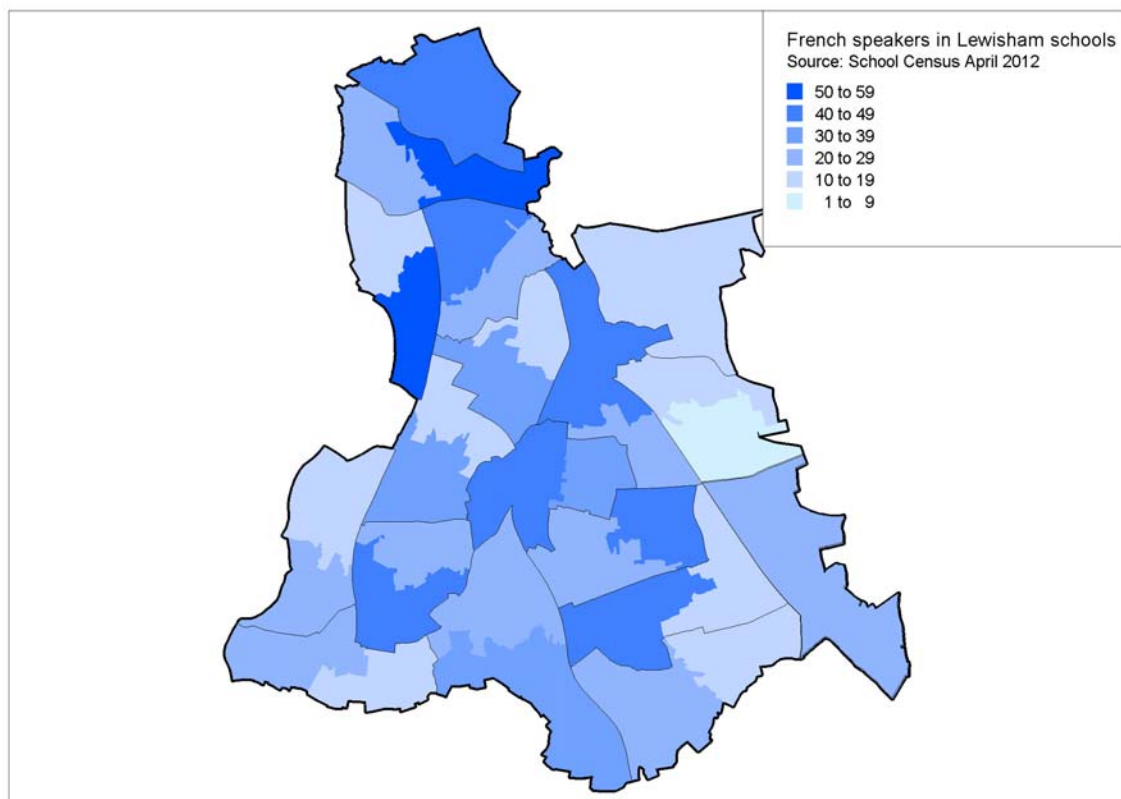
Slovenian	<5
Samoan	<5
Visayan/Bisaya	<5
Esan/Ishan	<5
Gurenne/Frafra	<5
Tiv	<5
Assyrian/Aramaic	<5
Chinese (Hokkien/Fujianese)	<5
Mongolian (Khalkha)	<5
Iban	<5
Tagalog	<5
Kalenjin	<5
Kirundi	<5
Mauritian/Seychelles Creole	<5
Ndebele	<5
Swahili (Kingwana)	<5
Tonga/Chitonga (Zambia)	<5
Catalan	<5
Welsh/Cymraeg	<5
Berber/Tamazight	<5
Tigre	<5
Sign Language (Other)	<5
Yiddish	<5
Bengali (Chittagong/Noakhali)	<5
Konkani	<5
Tulu	<5
Indonesian/Bahasa Indonesia	<5
Javanese	<5
Malay (Any Other)	<5
Adangme	<5
Dagaare	<5
Idoma	<5
Igala	<5
Kpelle	<5
Kazakh	<5
Kurdish (Any Other)	<5
Turkmen	<5
Uzbek	<5

How the Main Languages are distributed in Lewisham Schools

The maps in this section are based on the April 2012 School Census, presented at Middle Super Output Area level, for languages with 150 or more speakers. The divisions vary from language to language depending on the total number of speakers in Lewisham, so “high” numbers for one language might in absolute terms be quite low compared to another language. They are presented in order of Geozone used in the tables above.

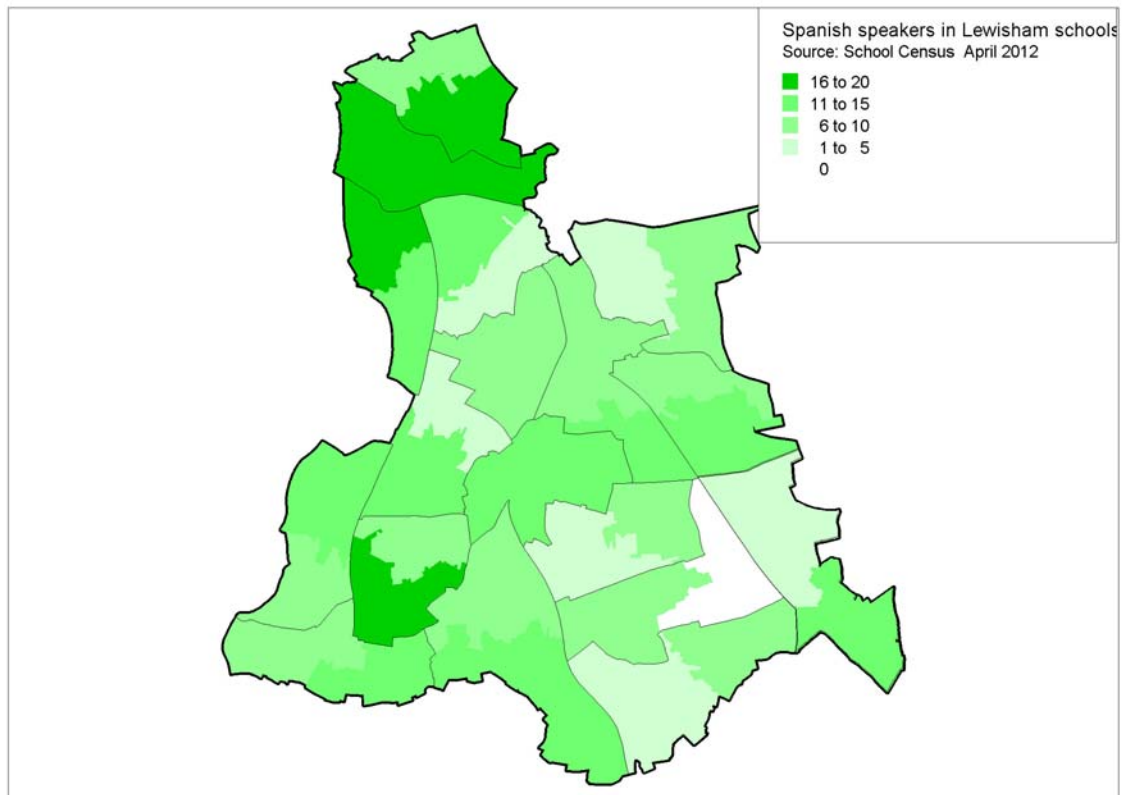
International Languages

The following map shows the distribution of French speakers.



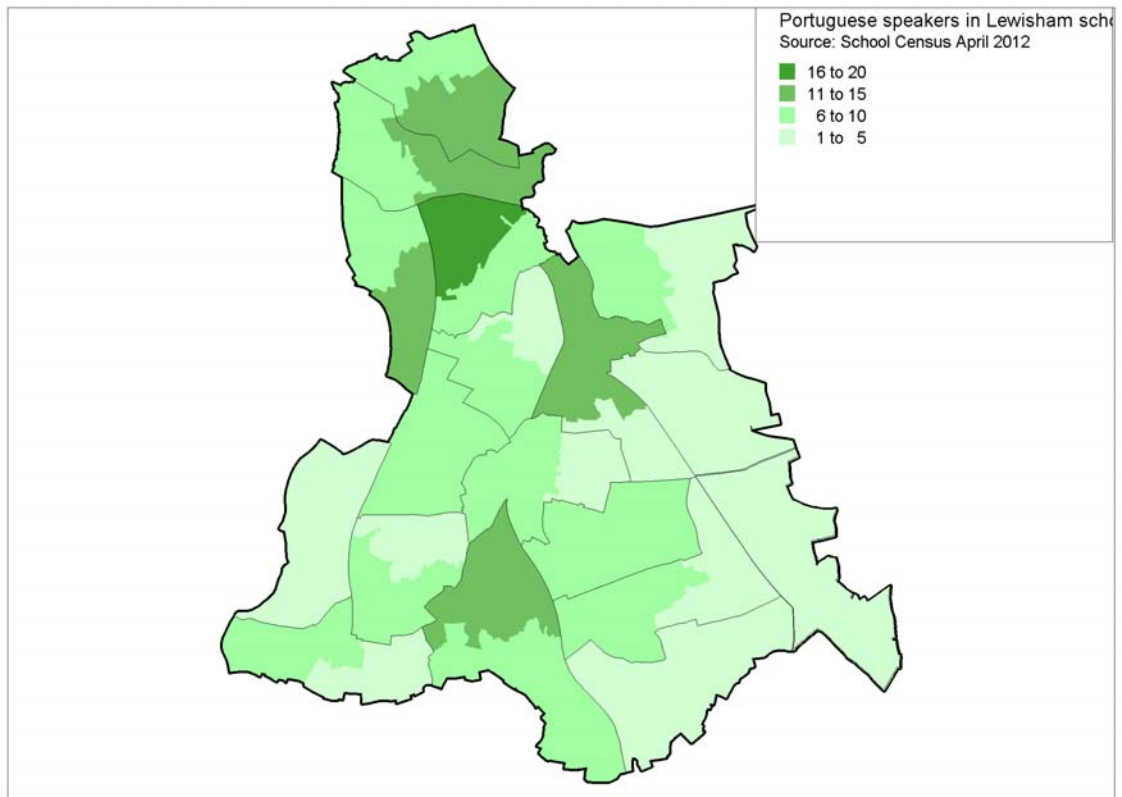
The greatest concentrations of French-speaking children are in the South of Telegraph Hill and the East of New Cross, and there are substantial numbers in Evelyn, Brockley, Lewisham Central, Rushey Green, Perry Vale, Catford South, and Whitefoot wards also.

The following map shows the distribution of Spanish speakers.



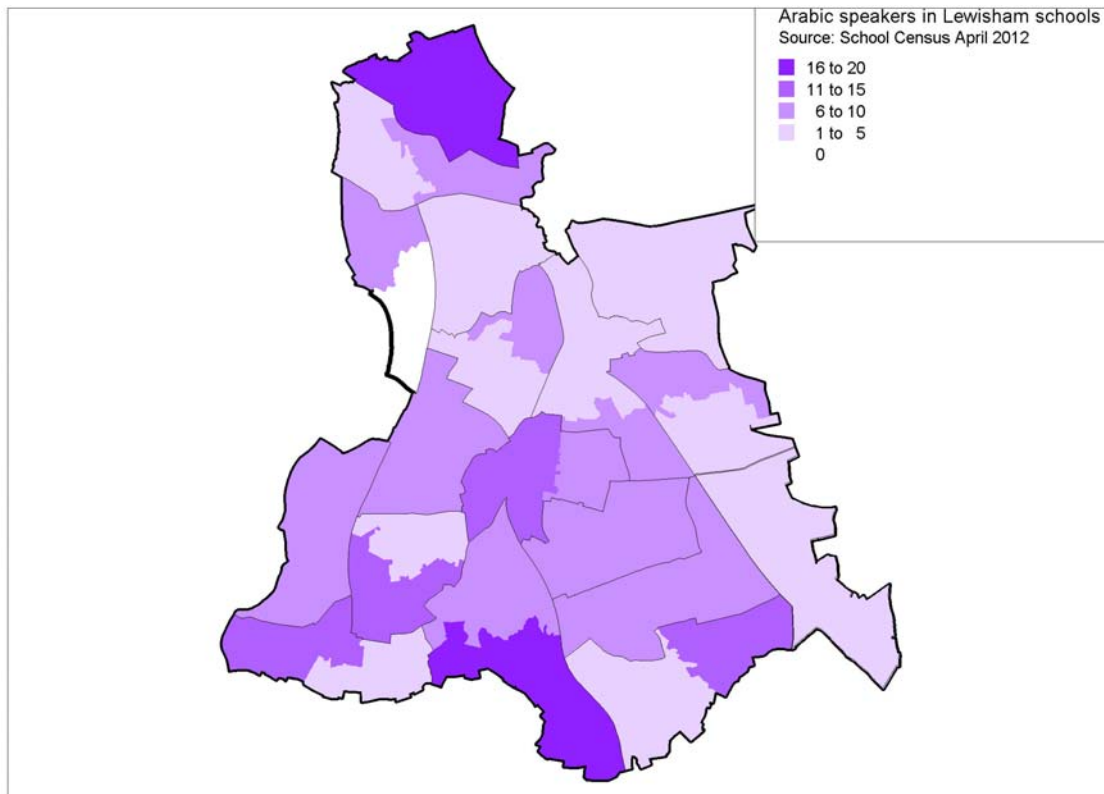
The greatest concentrations of Spanish-speaking children are in New Cross, Evelyn, Telegraph Hill, and the South on Perry Vale wards.

The following map shows the distribution of Portuguese speakers.



The greatest concentration of Portuguese-speaking children is in the North West of Brockley ward. There are high concentrations in the other North Lewisham wards, Lewisham Central, and Bellingham wards.

The following map shows the distribution of Arabic speakers.



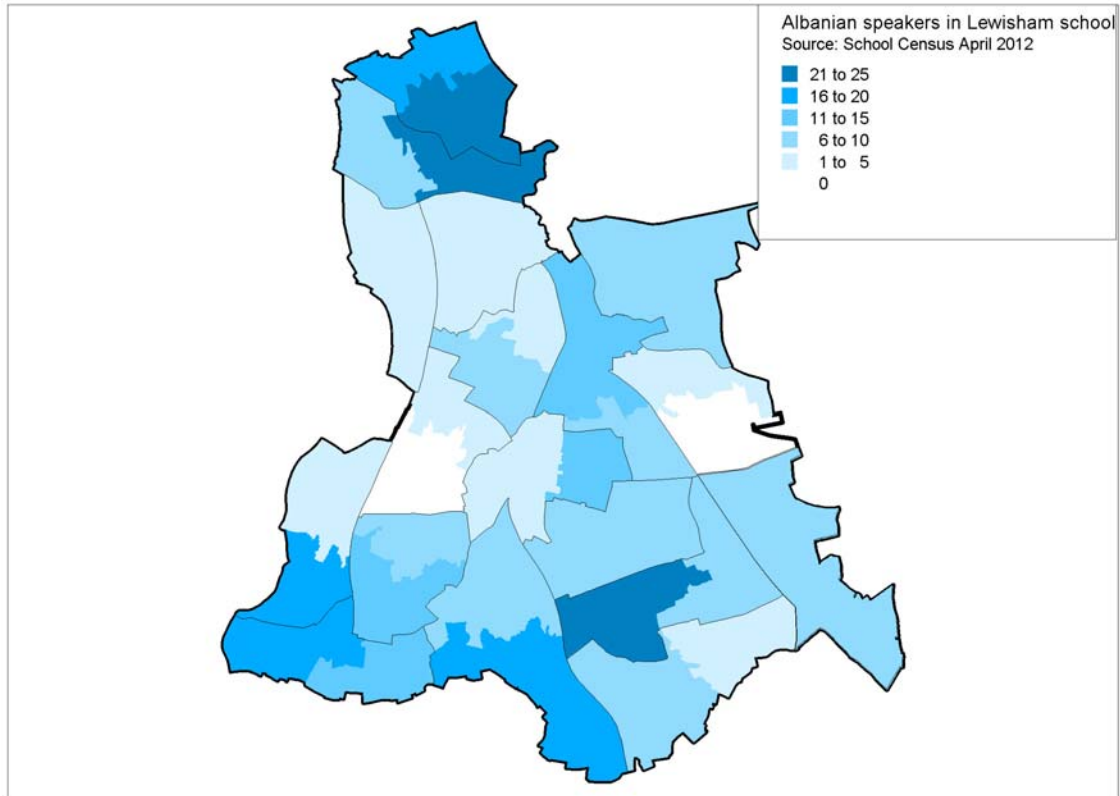
The greatest concentrations of Arabic-speaking children are in Evelyn and Bellingham wards. There are substantial numbers in the West of Sydenham, the South of Perry Vale, the West of Rushey Green, and the East of Downham wards.

There is a wide variety of dialects of Arabic, which are not always mutually intelligible when spoken, but all of which use the same written script. Local data includes speakers of Algerian, Iraqi, Moroccan, Sudanese and Yemeni Arabic, as well as those unspecified. This accounts for four of the five main Arabic Language Groups (Arabian Peninsula, Mesopotamian, Egyptian, Maghrebi).

This map shows all speakers of Arabic, as numbers of individual dialects are too small to present separately. The majority of those in Evelyn are North African (Algeria, Morocco, Sudan); those in Bellingham tend to be Middle Eastern (Iraqi, Yemeni).

European Languages

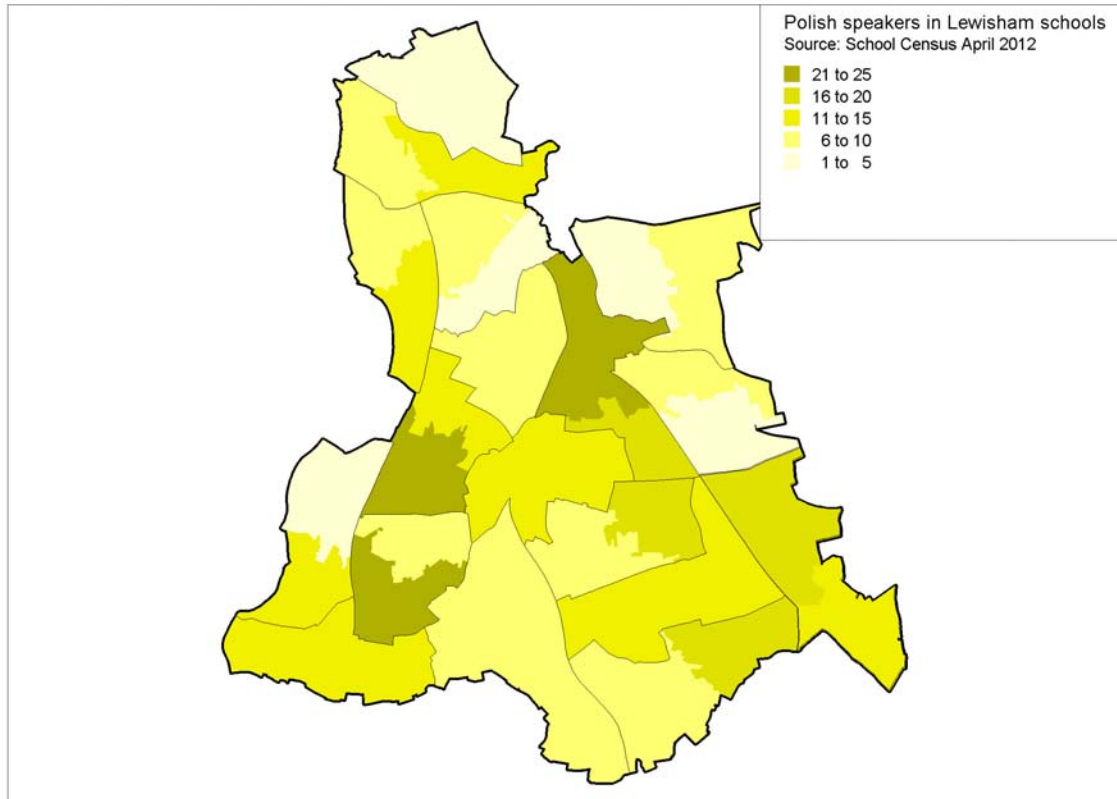
The following map shows the distribution of Albanian speakers.



Albanian is spoken in Albania, Kosovo, and other areas of the Balkans. The greatest concentrations of Albanian-speaking children are in the South East of Evelyn and New Cross, and the West of Whitefoot wards. There are substantial numbers in the North West of Evelyn, the South of Bellingham, and where Forest Hill borders Sydenham.

EU Languages

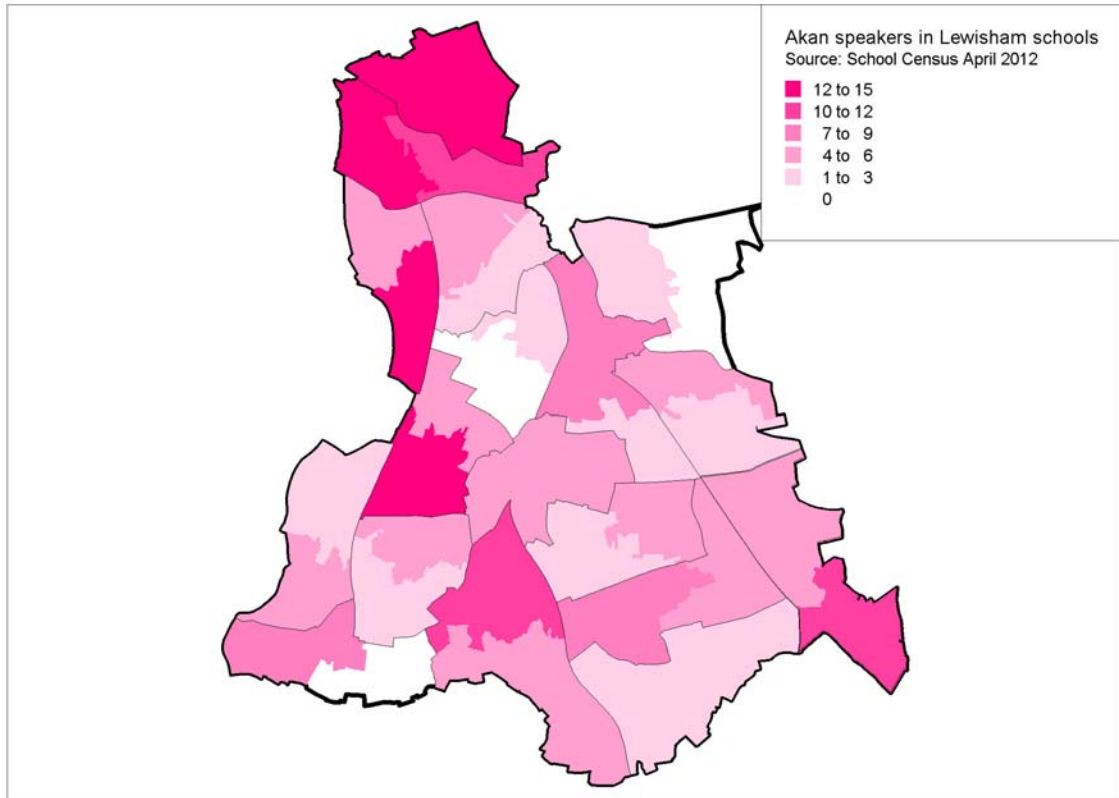
The following map shows the distribution of Polish speakers.



The greatest concentration of Polish-speaking speakers is in Lewisham Central, Crofton Park, and Perry Vale ward, with substantial numbers in parts on Catford South, Downham, and Grove Park.

East/Southern/Central Africa languages

The following map shows the distribution of Akan speakers.

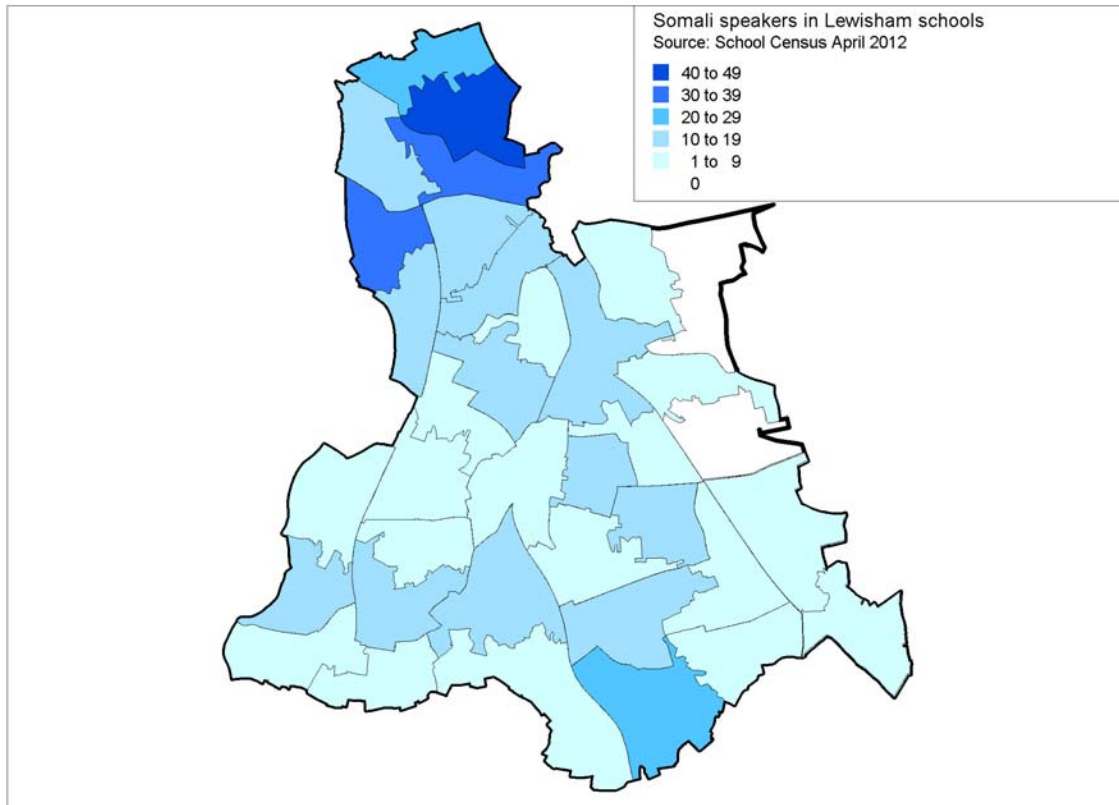


Akan is spoken in Ghana and Cote d'Ivoire. There are several dialects or sub-languages. Lewisham data records Fante, Twi-Asante and Twi-Asante. These are generally mutually intelligible when spoken, but only since 1978 has there been a common orthography for all the Akan languages.

The greatest concentration of Akan-speaking children is in North Lewisham, with substantial numbers in the South of Telegraph Hill and Crofton Park.

North African Languages

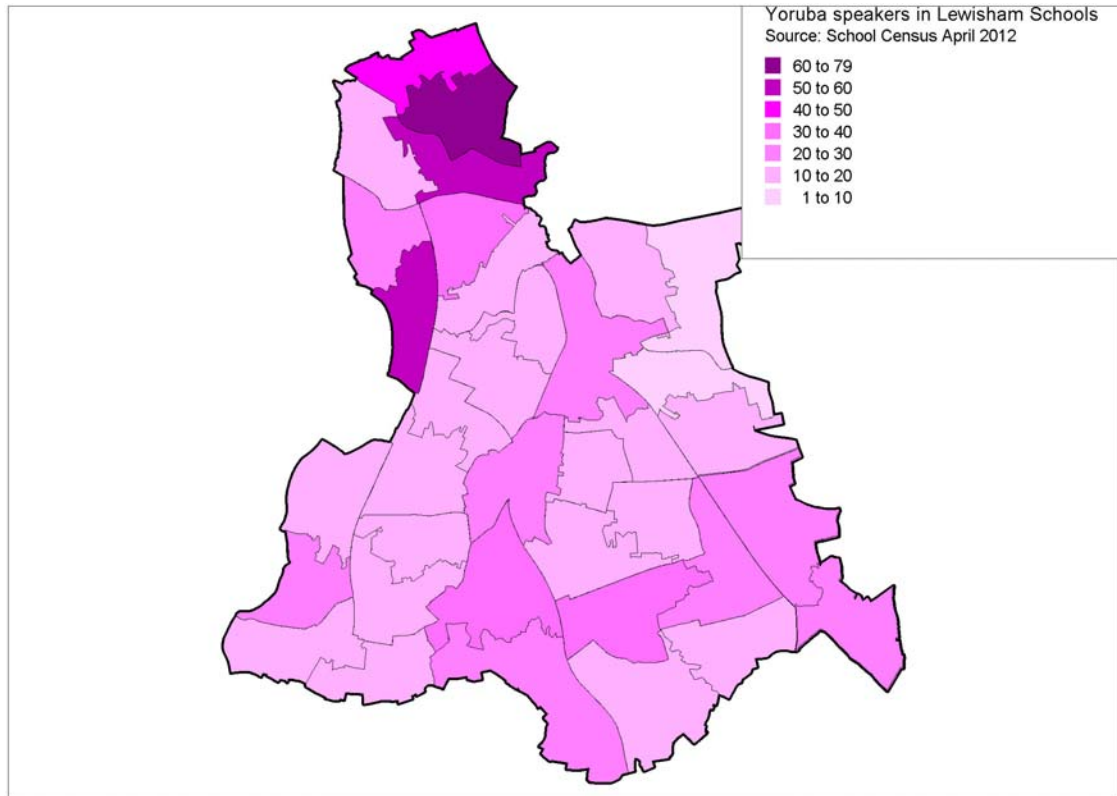
The following map shows the distribution of Somali speakers.



Somali is spoken in Somalia, Djibouti, and western parts of Ethiopia and Kenya. The greatest concentration of Somali-speaking children is in Evelyn, New Cross, and Telegraph Hill wards, with substantial numbers in the West of Downham.

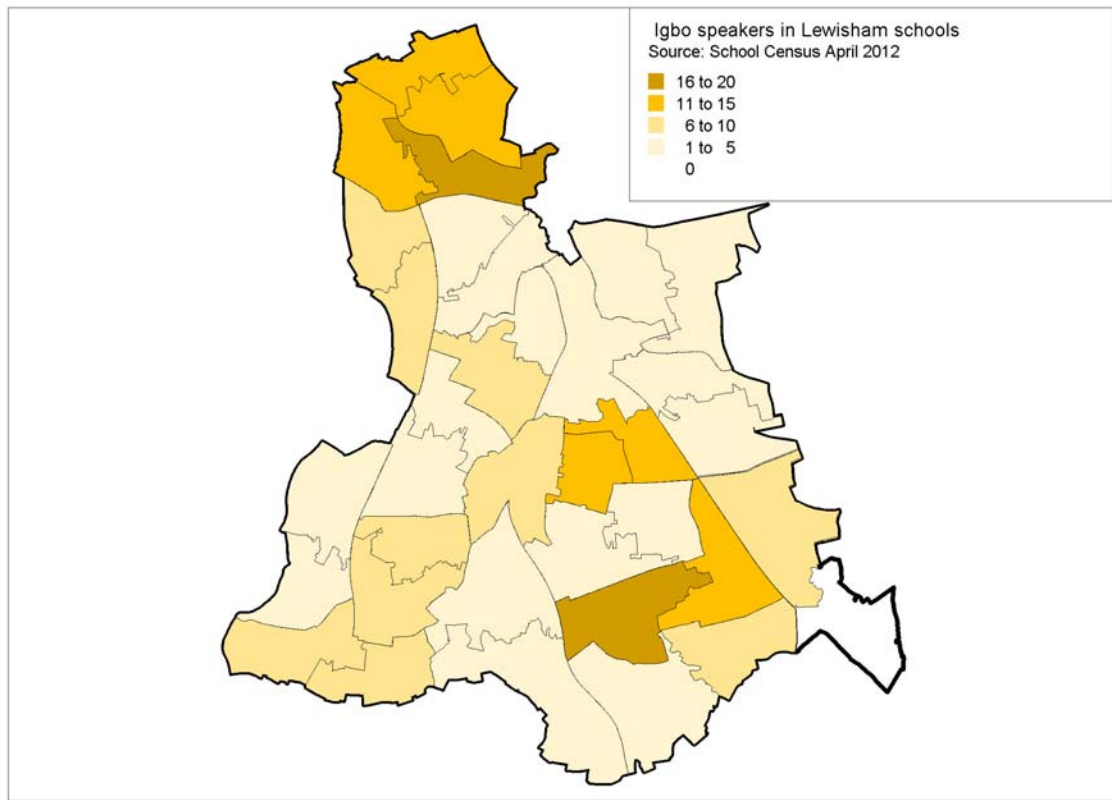
North African Languages

The following map shows the distribution of Yoruba speakers.



Yoruba is spoken in Nigeria, Benin and Togo. The greatest concentrations of Yoruba-speaking children are in Evelyn, New Cross and Telegraph Hill wards. There are substantial numbers in areas bordering the A21 and the South Circular roads.

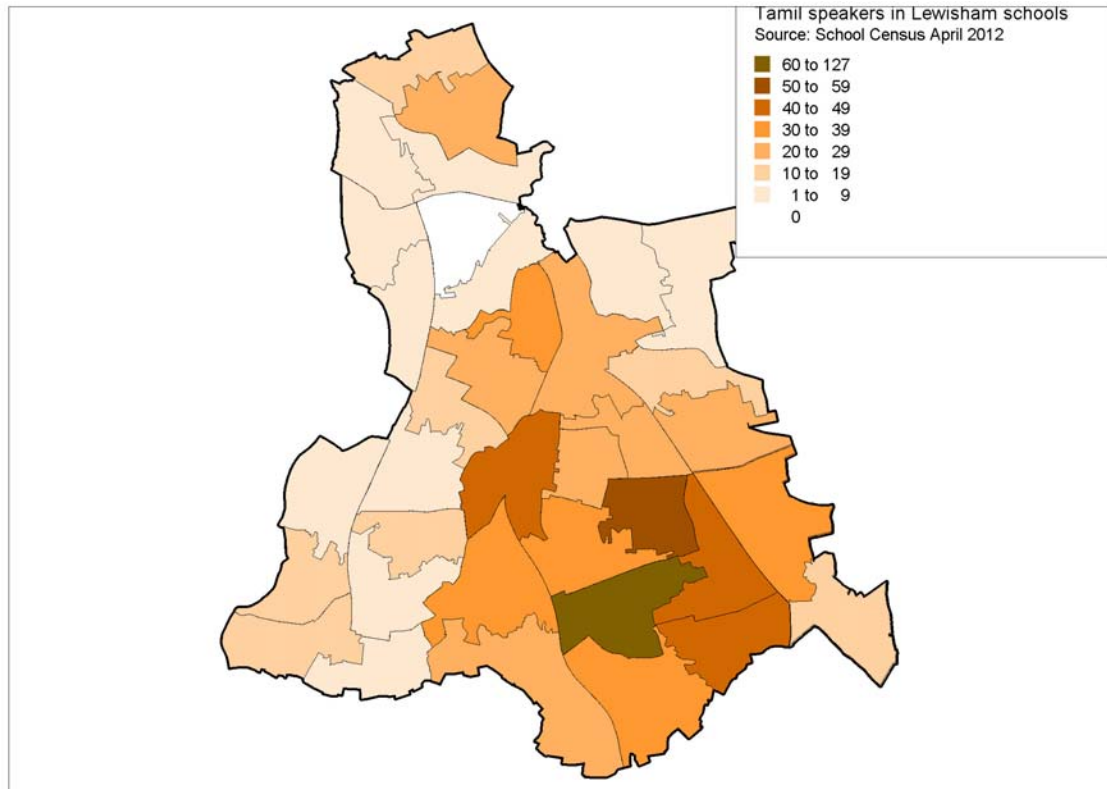
The following map shows the distribution of Igbo speakers.



Igbo is the predominant language of South East Nigerian, though there is a wide diaspora. The Igbo people are predominantly Christian. In Lewisham the greatest concentrations are in New Cross and Catford South, with substantial numbers in Evelyn, the South of Lewisham Central, and the East of Rushey Green wards.

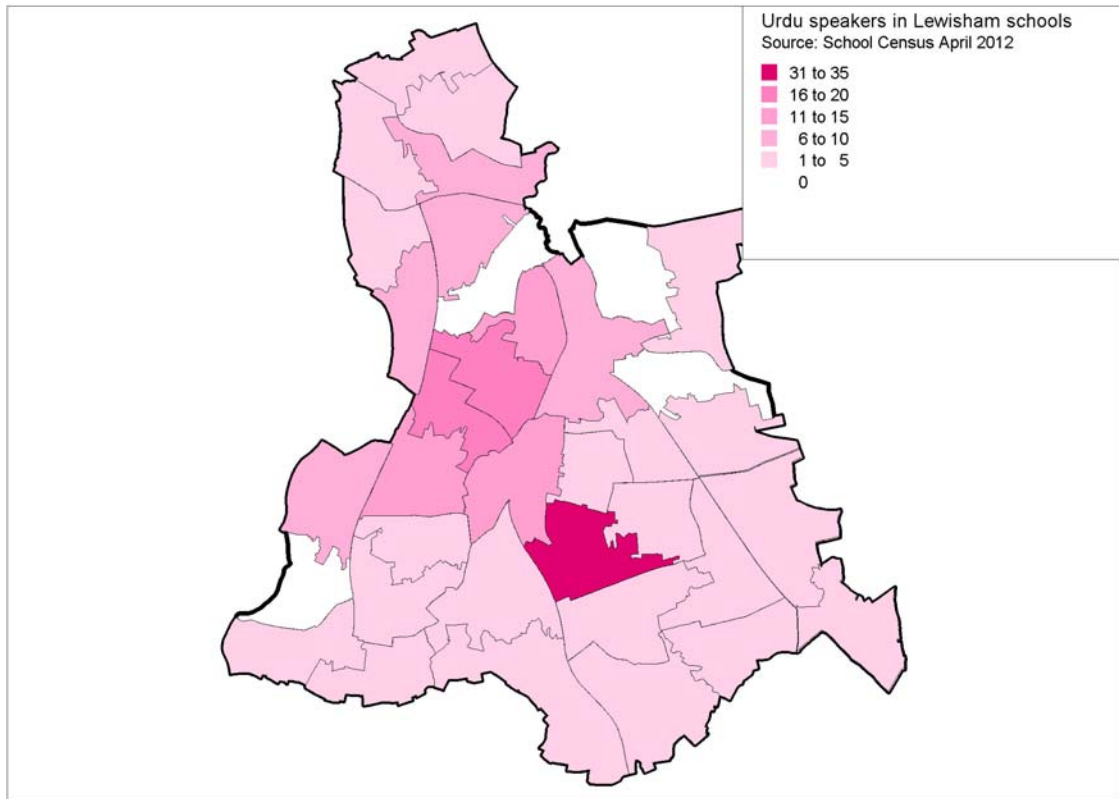
South Asian Languages

The following map shows the distribution of Tamil speakers.



Tamil is spoken in Tamil Nadu and Puducherry in India, and in Sri Lanka. It is also an official language in Singapore and is spoken by substantial minorities in Malaysia and Mauritius. In Lewisham Tamil-speaking children are concentrated in the South East of the Borough, particularly in Whitefoot and Catford South Wards.

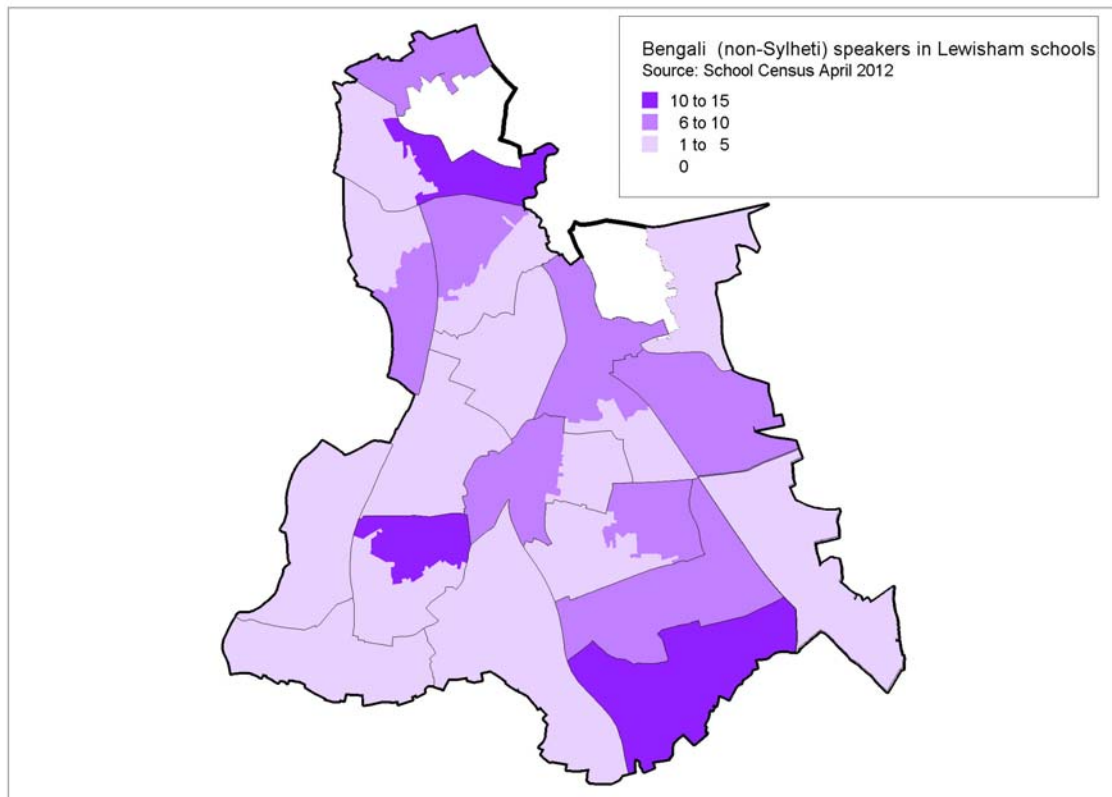
The following map shows the distribution of Urdu speakers.



Urdu is a register of the Hindi-Urdu language associated with Muslims in South Asia. It is the national language of Pakistan, and widely spoken in India. Urdu and Hindi are mutually intelligible when spoken, but when written Urdu uses a style of the Persian alphabet and Hindi is written in Devanagari. For social, political and religious reasons, speakers of the two languages often assert they are completely different languages.

The greatest concentration of Urdu-speaking children is in Catford South, followed by Ladywell and Crofton Park wards.

The following map shows the distribution of Bengali (non-Sylheti) speakers.

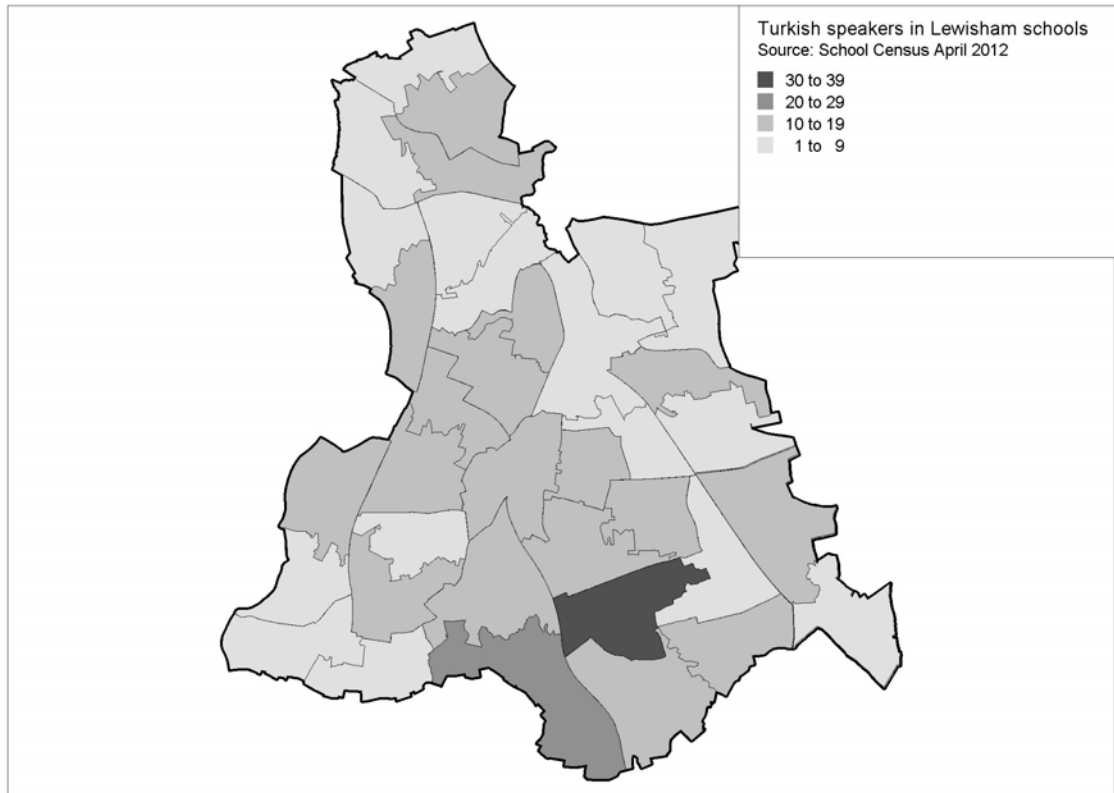


Bengali is spoken in Bangladesh, where most people are Muslims, and in West Bengal, Tripura, and parts of several other Indian states, where the majority are Hindus. In contrast to most of London, where most Bangladeshis speak Sylheti as their mother tongue, only a small number of Sylheti speakers are recorded in Lewisham schools, and a much larger number of Bengali speakers. Sylheti is sometimes regarded as a dialect of Bengali, but they are mutually unintelligible, and Sylheti may be written in its own Nagari script. Sylheti speakers have therefore been excluded from this map.

The greatest concentrations of Bengali-speaking children in Lewisham are in the East of New Cross, the North of Perry Vale, and in Downham ward.

West/Central Asian Languages

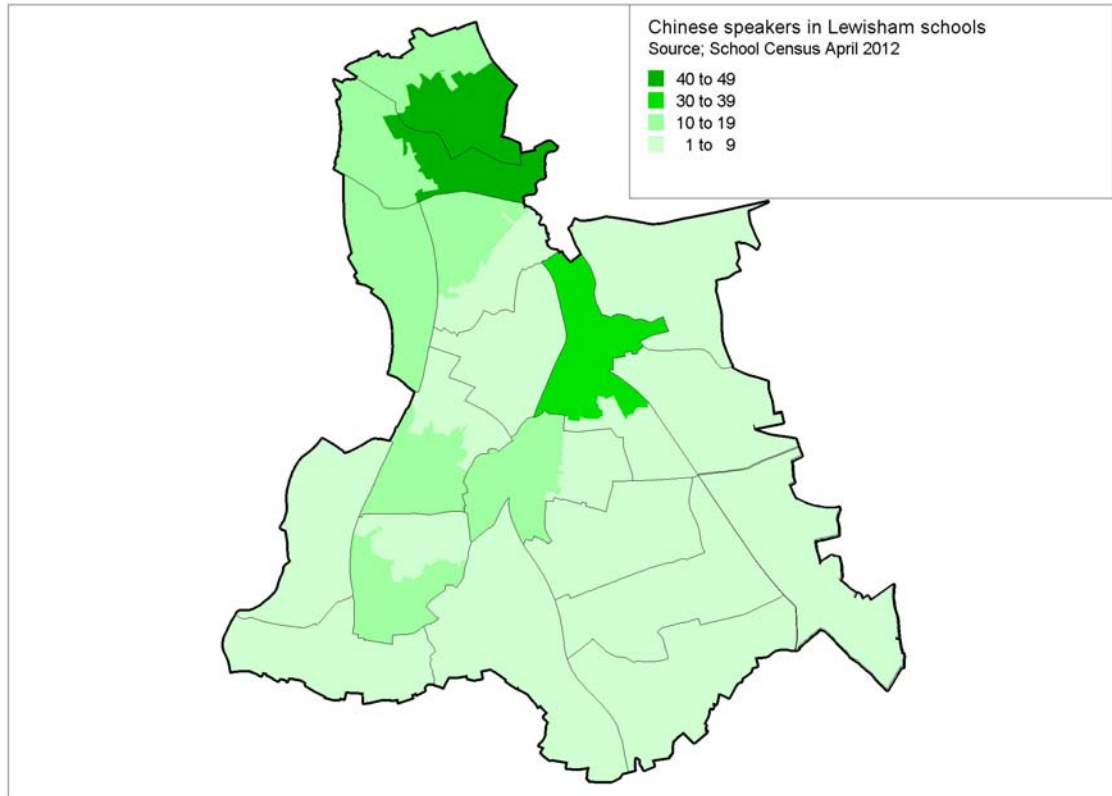
The following map shows the distribution of Turkish speakers.



The greatest concentration of Turkish-speaking children is in Whitefoot ward, followed by Bellingham.

East Asian languages

The following map shows the distribution of speakers of Chinese languages.



Local data records

Cantonese - the main language of Hong Kong and Macau;

Mandarin (Putonghua, Hanyu) - the official language of the People's Republic of China, the Republic of China (Taiwan) and of Singapore;

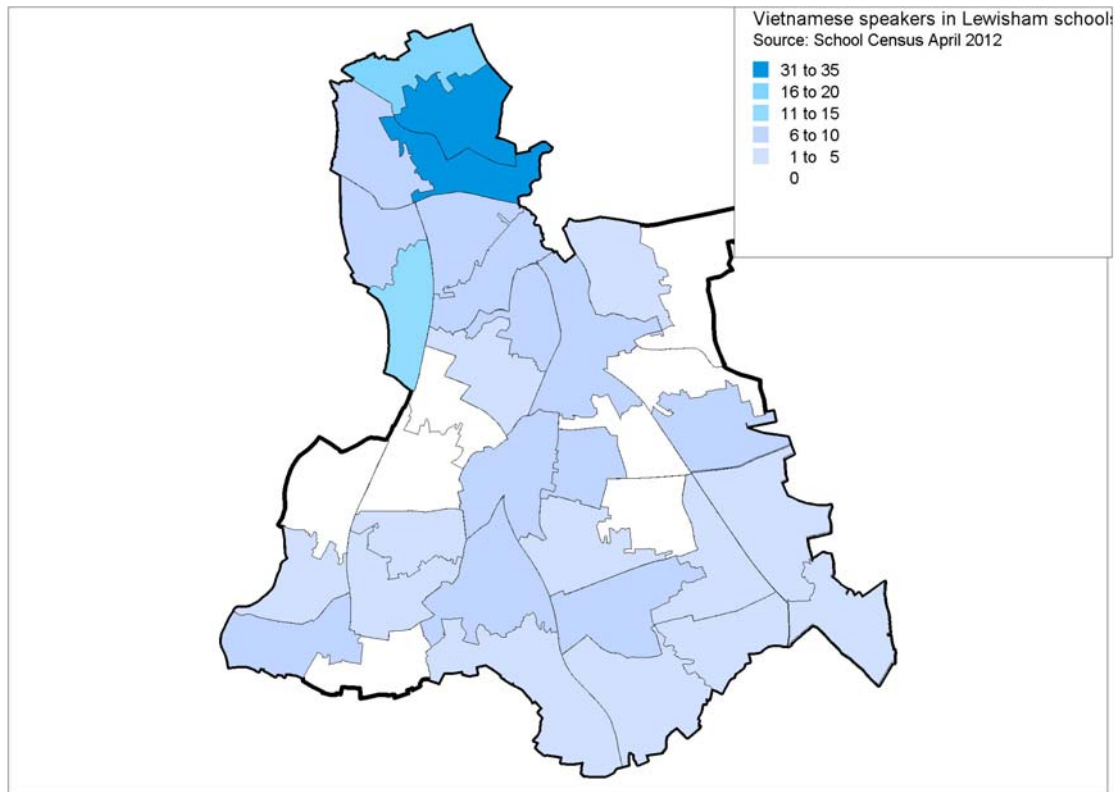
Hokkien/Fujianese (spoken in South East Asia and Taiwan), and

Chinese Other (including Hakka, widely spoken in South East Asia)

separately. These are not mutually intelligible as spoken so are generally regarded in the West as distinct languages which share a common written language. Even within the written language, in Singapore and the People's Republic of China simplified Chinese characters are used, while in Hong Kong, Macau, and Taiwan traditional characters are preferred. If this data is used for distribution of printed material or location of interpreting services, therefore, it should be supplemented by more detailed investigation of national origin.

Chinese-speaking children in Lewisham are heavily concentrated in North Lewisham, especially the East of Evelyn and New Cross, and in Lewisham Central wards.

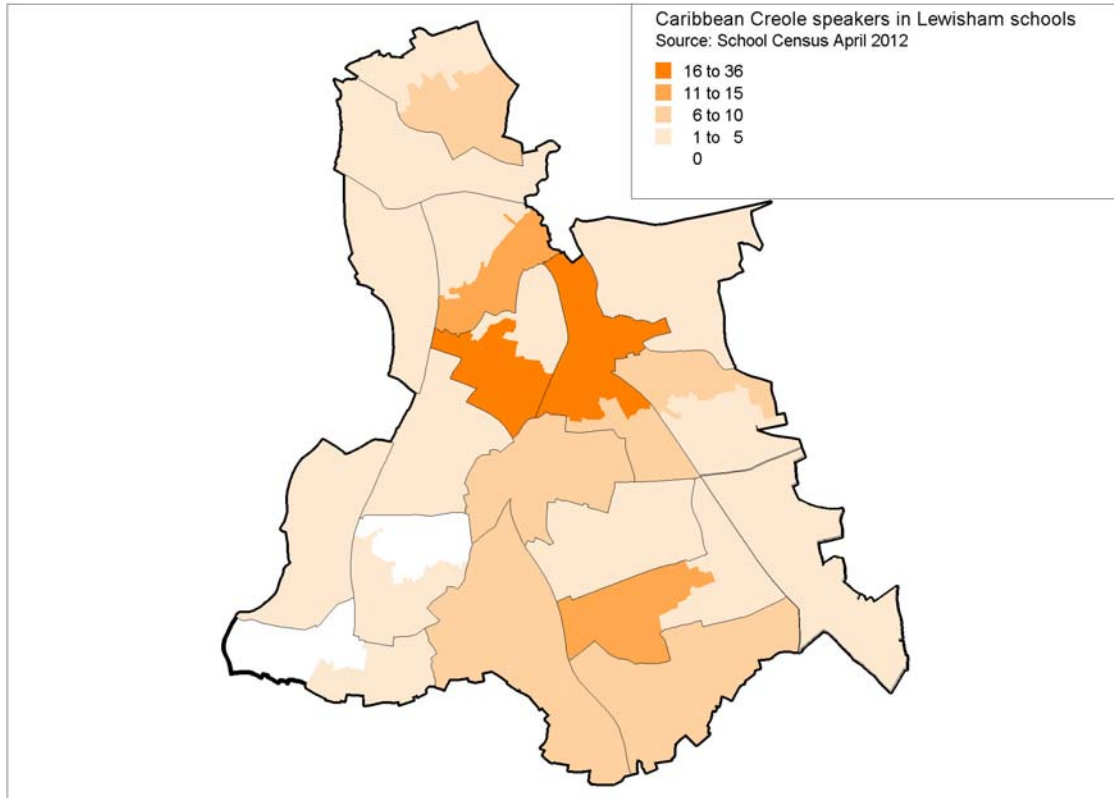
The following map shows the distribution of Vietnamese speakers.



Vietnamese speakers are heavily concentrated in Evelyn and New Cross wards.

Caribbean languages

The following map shows the distribution of Caribbean Creole (English) speakers.



Caribbean Creole speaking children are concentrated in Lewisham Central and Ladywell wards, with some also in the South of Brockley and the West of Whitefoot. According to Goldsmiths University², *there are 29 countries in the Caribbean which have, in addition to their official language, one or more Creole languages that are used as part of everyday life.* Caribbean Creole may therefore be a portmanteau term subsuming several different languages.

² <http://www.gold.ac.uk/creole/>