

CYMRAEG

2050



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

# Cymraeg 2050: A million Welsh speakers

Annual report 2022-23

# Cymraeg 2050: A million Welsh speakers, Annual report 2022-23

## Audience

Welsh Government departments; public bodies in Wales; third sector organisations in Wales; private sector companies in Wales; education institutions in Wales; organisations working to increase the use of Welsh; organisations working with families, children and young people, and communities; and other interested parties.

## Overview

In order to fulfil the requirements of the Government of Wales Act 2006, *Cymraeg 2050: A million Welsh speakers* was launched in July 2017, when the previous strategy came to an end.

The Government of Wales Act 2006 requires an annual report to be published to monitor progress against the Welsh Language Strategy.

## Further information

Enquiries about this document should be directed to:

Cymraeg 2050 Division

Welsh Government

Cathays Park

Cardiff

CF10 3NQ

e-mail: [Cymraeg2050@gov.wales](mailto:Cymraeg2050@gov.wales)

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 [Facebook/Cymraeg](https://www.facebook.com/Cymraeg)

## Additional copies

This document is available on the Welsh Government website at [www.gov.wales/welsh-language](http://www.gov.wales/welsh-language)

## Related documents

Welsh Language (Wales) Measure 2011; *Cymraeg 2050: A million Welsh speakers* (2017); *Cymraeg 2050: Work programme 2021 to 2026* (2021); *Technical report: Projection and trajectory for the number of Welsh speakers aged three and over, 2011 to 2050* (2017)

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## Ministerial foreword

We present our annual report on our language strategy, [Cymraeg 2050: A million Welsh speakers](#), for the 2022-23 financial year. This report looks back at our progress during the year in implementing *Cymraeg 2050* in the context of our *2021-26 Work Programme*, our agreement with Plaid Cymru, and our commitments in the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015.

2022-23 has been another busy year as we continued to develop policies and take action to achieve the *Cymraeg 2050* aims and objectives, for example:

- Consult on a White Paper on proposals for the Welsh Language Education Bill.
- Each local authority's new Welsh in Education Strategic Plans become operational.
- Further investment in late immersion provision.
- Publish *Welsh in education workforce plan*.
- Fund the Urdd to re-establish Youth Theatre.
- Announce free Welsh lessons for young people 16-25 years of age and for the education workforce.
- Further investment in the National Centre for Learning Welsh and the Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol.
- Introduce Welsh Language Standards for Health Regulators.
- Publish the new *More than just words* scheme.
- Publish the *Welsh Language Communities Housing Plan*.
- Launch the Commission for Welsh-speaking Communities.

The publishing of this report is an ideal opportunity to thank all of our partners for their tireless work throughout the year. They have worked alongside us again this year in various areas up and down the country to support us on our journey towards the million and to double daily use of our language.

During the reporting year, it was wonderful to see a number of in-person events such as our eisteddfodau and small festivals being re-established. But as this report shows, the process of recovery following the pandemic will continue and its effects will be far-reaching in some areas.

This was also an important year in terms of statistics, with the first data relating to the Welsh language from the 2021 Census published on 6 December 2022. According to the data, 538,300 people aged three years or older were able to speak Welsh in Wales or 17.8% of the population – a decrease from the 2011 Census.

We provide details on the data in the body of this report, but it is worth highlighting two important areas – the drop in the number of 5-15 year olds able to speak Welsh (which was greatest in areas with a lower density of Welsh speakers and children in Welsh-medium education) and the change in our Welsh-speaking communities.

This data is a reminder that our approach to teaching Welsh in our English-medium schools needs to be strengthened. Our forthcoming Welsh Language Education Bill will be key in achieving better language outcomes for learners in all schools, including those that are English-medium. The aim is for all pupils, regardless of the medium of teaching, to become confident Welsh-speakers through the statutory education system who are eager to use their language skills in the community, in workplaces and in everyday life.

The second notable decline was in our traditional Welsh-speaking communities. We have recently commissioned a large socio-linguistic survey to better understand what lies behind the decline so that we can introduce appropriate interventions to reverse the trend. This work will support the remit of the [Commission for Welsh-speaking Communities](#) that we set up in August 2022.

We have other surveys of course which show different trends in the number of people able to speak Welsh. According to the Annual Population Survey for example, 906,800 people, or 29.7% of the population aged three years or older, were able to speak Welsh in the year ending 31 March 2023. We are working with the Office for National Statistics to follow up on these differences in data, and the initial findings have been published in a [statistical article](#). Further analysis on various aspects of data will continue to inform policy and decisions across Government.

We must remember that the census does not measure language use. The numbers using our language across the country and beyond – whether on our sports fields, at all sorts of gigs or on social media – is as important to the vision of *Cymraeg 2050* as is the number of speakers. And we will not want to lose sight of that.

The census results give us a clear indication of the areas we need to focus on in the future. While these are not the results we hoped to share in this report, you will see that we have a robust infrastructure to build on for the future. There are certainly challenges ahead, but there is a clear desire among ministers, education partners, local governments, main grant partners and third sector partners to tackle them together. This report is a testament to all the willing collaboration that is already taking place up and down the country and that will continue to take place.

**14 November 2023**

**Jeremy Miles MS**

**Minister for Education and Welsh Language**

## Context – Cymraeg 2050

*Cymraeg 2050: A million Welsh speakers* is our Welsh language strategy, which has two main targets:

- The number of Welsh speakers to reach 1 million by 2050.
- The percentage of the population that speak Welsh daily and can speak more than just a few words of Welsh, to increase from 10% (in 2013-15) to at least 20% by 2050.

At the end of each financial year, Welsh Ministers (under Section 78 of the Government of Wales Act 2006) must publish a report outlining progress on our language strategy during the financial year.

This document reports on the 2022-23 financial year, and includes details of our progress under the three themes of the *Cymraeg 2050* strategy:

1. Increasing the number of Welsh speakers
2. Increasing the use of Welsh
3. Creating favourable conditions – infrastructure and context

The second *Cymraeg 2050* 5-year Work Programme (for 2021-26) was introduced at the start of this government. This report outlines our progress against that programme, our *Programme for Government* commitments and the *Co-operation Agreement* with Plaid Cymru.

# Theme 1: Increasing the number of Welsh speakers

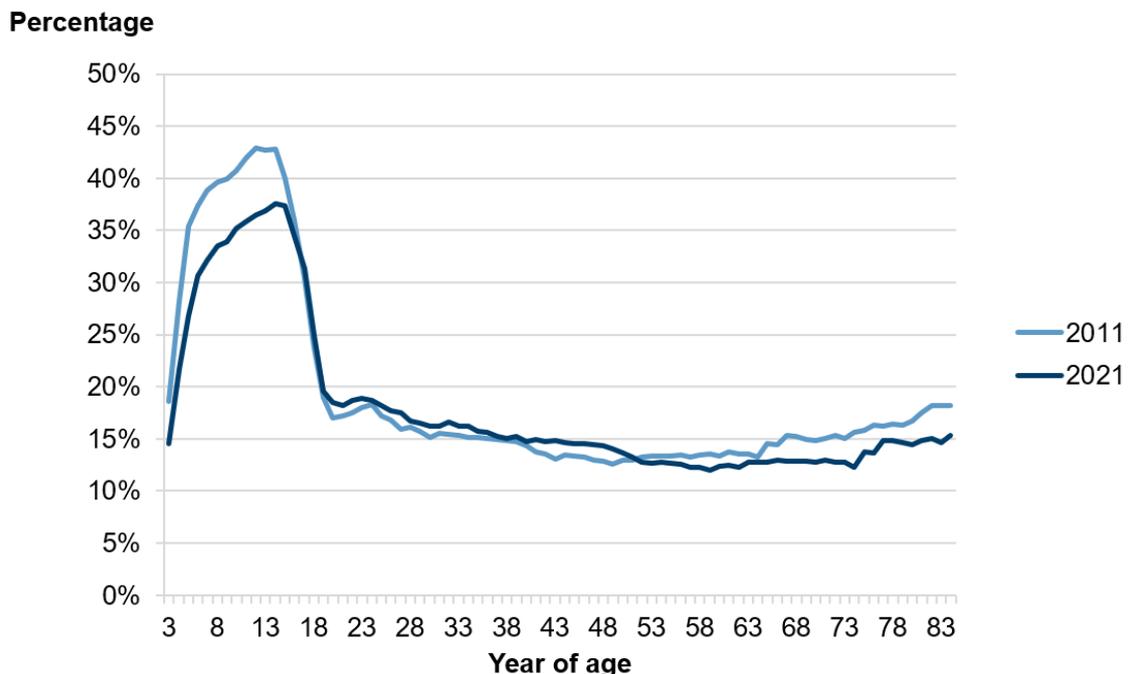
## The current situation – how many people can speak Welsh?

The census is the source we use to monitor progress towards our target of a million Welsh speakers. The Office for National Statistics (ONS) held the 2021 Census in March 2021. The initial results in relation to the Welsh language were published in December 2022.

The 2021 Census stated that 538,300 people, or 17.8% of the population aged three years or older were able to speak Welsh in Wales. This was 1.2 percentage points lower, or 23,700 fewer people since the 2011 Census, which noted around 562,000 Welsh speakers (or 19.0% of the population).

The decrease in the number and percentage of people aged three years or older who reported being able to speak Welsh is largely due to a decrease in the number and percentage of children and young people identified as being able to speak Welsh. There has been a slight increase in the percentage of people able to speak Welsh in the young adult groups, with decreases in the older groups.

**Chart 1: Percentage of the population aged 3 to 84 who are able to speak Welsh by year of age, 2011 and 2021**



Source: Census of population, 2011 and 2021

The percentage of people aged three years or older able to speak Welsh decreased between 2011 and 2021 in all local authorities except in Cardiff, the

Vale of Glamorgan, Rhondda Cynon Taf and Merthyr Tydfil. Carmarthenshire saw the largest decrease in the percentage of people aged three years or older able to speak Welsh, falling from 43.9% in 2011 to 39.9% in 2021, a fall of 4.1 percentage points. Carmarthenshire also saw the largest fall between Census 2001 and Census 2011.

It should be noted that the 2021 Census was held during the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic on 21 March 2021. This affected the population in a number of ways. For example, children had been learning remotely, and many early years childcare facilities, including Welsh-medium childcare facilities, were closed for extended periods. For this age group, parents or guardians would probably have identified the Welsh skills of their children. Their assessment of that child or young person's Welsh skills may not be the same as the child or young person's assessment. We do not know how the pandemic affected the way people reported their Welsh skills, or their perceptions of other people's Welsh skills.

However, since the initial results of the census were published, Welsh Government statisticians have published a further analysis of the population's Welsh language ability according to a number of population characteristics using 2021 Census data. Below, we look in detail at some of these statistics in relation to each characteristic.

### Ethnic group

Between 2011 and 2021, there was an increase in the *number* of people aged three years or older able to speak Welsh who belonged to the high-level ethnic groups "Mixed or multiple ethnic groups", "Asian, Asian Welsh or Asian British", "Black, Black Welsh, Black British, Caribbean or African" and the "Other" group from nearly 11,000 in 2011 to just over 16,000 in 2021.

There was also an increase in the *percentage* able to speak Welsh among the population belonging to the "Asian, Asian Welsh or Asian British", "Black, Black Welsh, Black British, Caribbean or African" ethnic groups and the "Other" group.

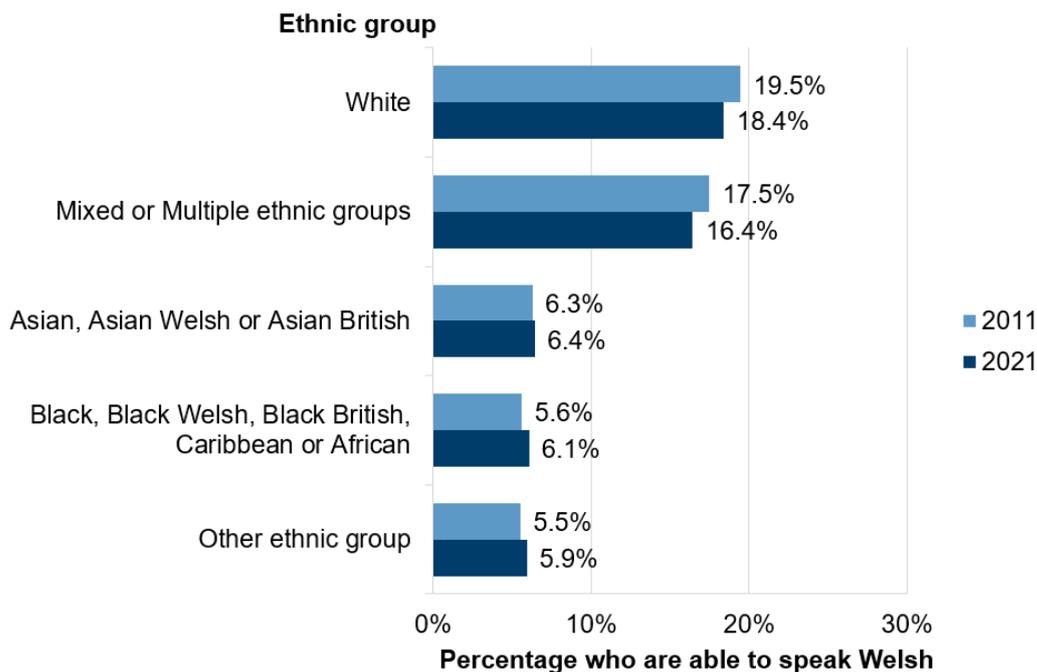
Although this data is encouraging, we also recognise that more needs to be done to ensure that members of minority ethnic communities have better opportunities to learn and use the Welsh language. To this end, throughout the reporting period, we contributed to the Government's work in developing its new [Anti-Racist Wales Action Plan](#). The Plan was published on 7 June 2022, and includes a series of targets in relation to the Welsh language in order to develop our understanding of the experiences of Welsh speakers and non-Welsh speakers from minority ethnic communities, to learn from them and to respond positively and proactively to them.

During the reporting year, we have spent time listening to the voices of Black, Asian and minority ethnic Welsh speakers and have ensured that they are included in the Government's strategic discussions. In addition, in order to gain

a better understanding of the experiences of Welsh-speaking young people from ethnic minorities, a [Perthyn](#) panel event was commissioned, organised by the Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol and the Cardiff and Vale College. The event gave officials valuable insights into the lived experiences of young minority ethnic Welsh speakers. This was the first event of its kind in Wales.

Several meetings of the Welsh Language Partnership Council's Equality, Inclusion and Diversity sub-group were held during the reporting year. Their focus remained on the *Anti-racist Wales Action Plan* and advising *Cymraeg 2050* policy officials on actions relating specifically to the Welsh language. The sub-group continues to be a vital forum for sharing lived experience and advising the Government on how to embed anti-racism practices across the *Cymraeg 2050* strategy and our methods of implementation. We will broaden the focus of the work over the next financial year to include work around inclusion more widely, including advising on elements of the new *LGBTQ+ Equality Action Plan*.

**Chart 2: Percentage of the population aged three years or older who are able to speak Welsh by ethnic group, 2011 and 2021**



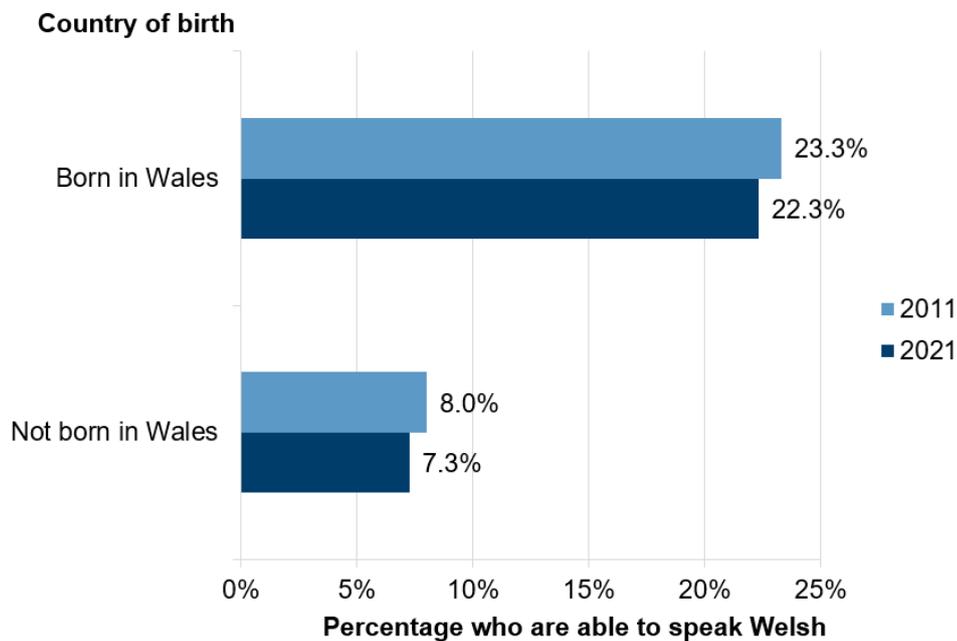
Source: Census of population, 2011 and 2021

Country of birth

In 2021, 473,060 (22.3%) of the population aged three years or older born in Wales were able to speak Welsh, a decrease of 1 percentage point from 2011. 65,240 (7.3%) of the population aged three years or older born outside Wales were able to speak Welsh, a decrease of 0.7 percentage points from 2011.

Of the population aged three years or older able to speak Welsh, there has been some increase in the percentage born outside Wales, from 11.8% in 2011 to 12.1% in 2021. This statistic should be interpreted in the context of the more general trends in Welsh demography. During the same period, there was also an increase in the overall proportion of the population aged three years or older born outside Wales, from 28.1% in 2011 to 29.8% in 2021, with the majority born in England.

**Chart 3: Percentage of the population aged three years or older who are able to speak Welsh by country of birth, 2011 and 2021**



Source: Census of population, 2011 and 2021

### National identity

In 2011, a question about national identity was included in the census for the first time. This question was once again included in the 2021 Census. Individuals could choose one or several identities from the list or they could report another identity. Individuals may have answered differently in the two censuses.

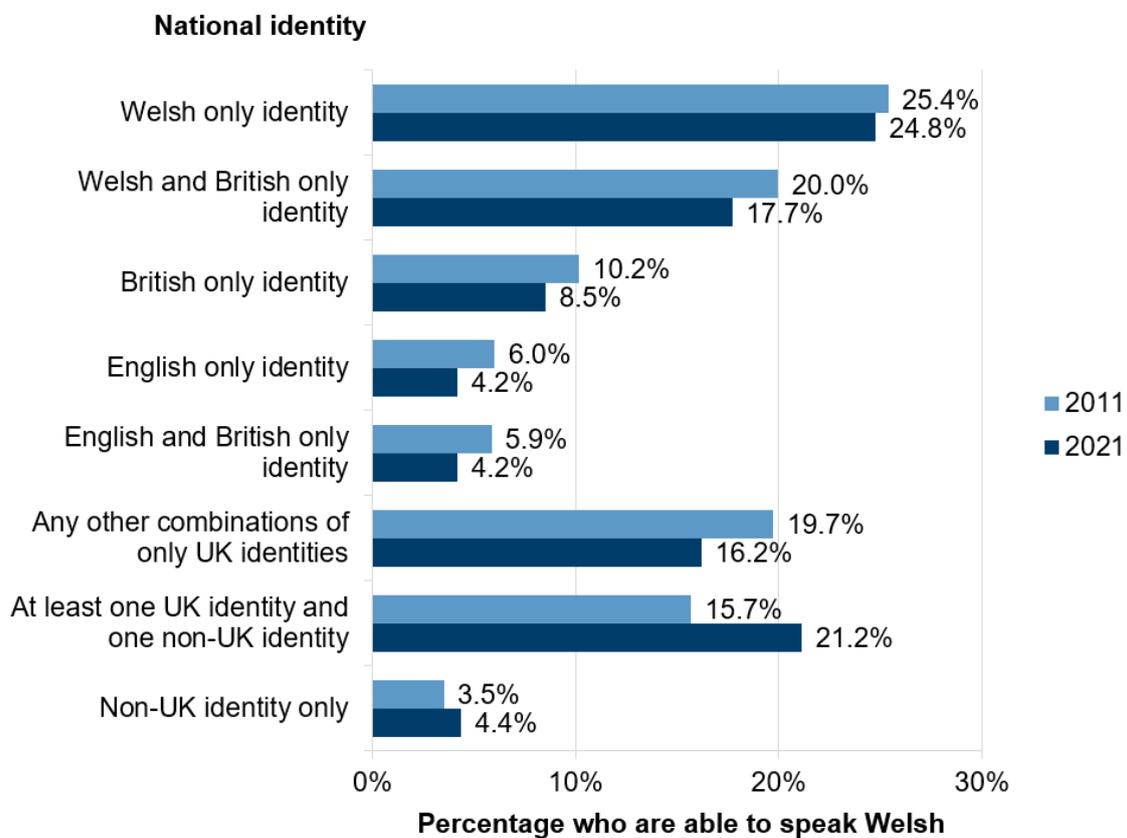
In 2021, the percentage of Welsh speakers was highest among people who identified as Welsh only (24.8%), and lowest among people who identified as English only (4.2%) and as English and British (4.2%).

In 2021, of all Welsh speakers aged three years or older, 411,190 (76.4%) identified as Welsh only, 47,710 (8.9%) identified as British only and 42,960 (8.0%) identified as Welsh and British.

Between 2011 and 2021, the percentage of Welsh speakers in all national identity groups decreased except for the population with "At least one UK and one non-UK identity", and "Non-UK identity only".

In 2011, the population with a "Non-UK identity only" was least likely to be able to speak Welsh (3.5%). By 2021, the percentage of Welsh speakers among this group had increased to 4.4%. The percentage of Welsh speakers was lowest among the population who identified as "English only" and "English and British" (both 4.2%).

**Chart 4: Percentage of the population aged three years or older who are able to speak Welsh by national identity, 2011 and 2021**



Source: Census of population, 2011 and 2021

### Industry

Of the population aged 16 or over in work, the *percentage* able to speak Welsh is highest in the Agriculture, Energy and Water industry (30.0%), and lowest in the Manufacturing industry (10.4%).

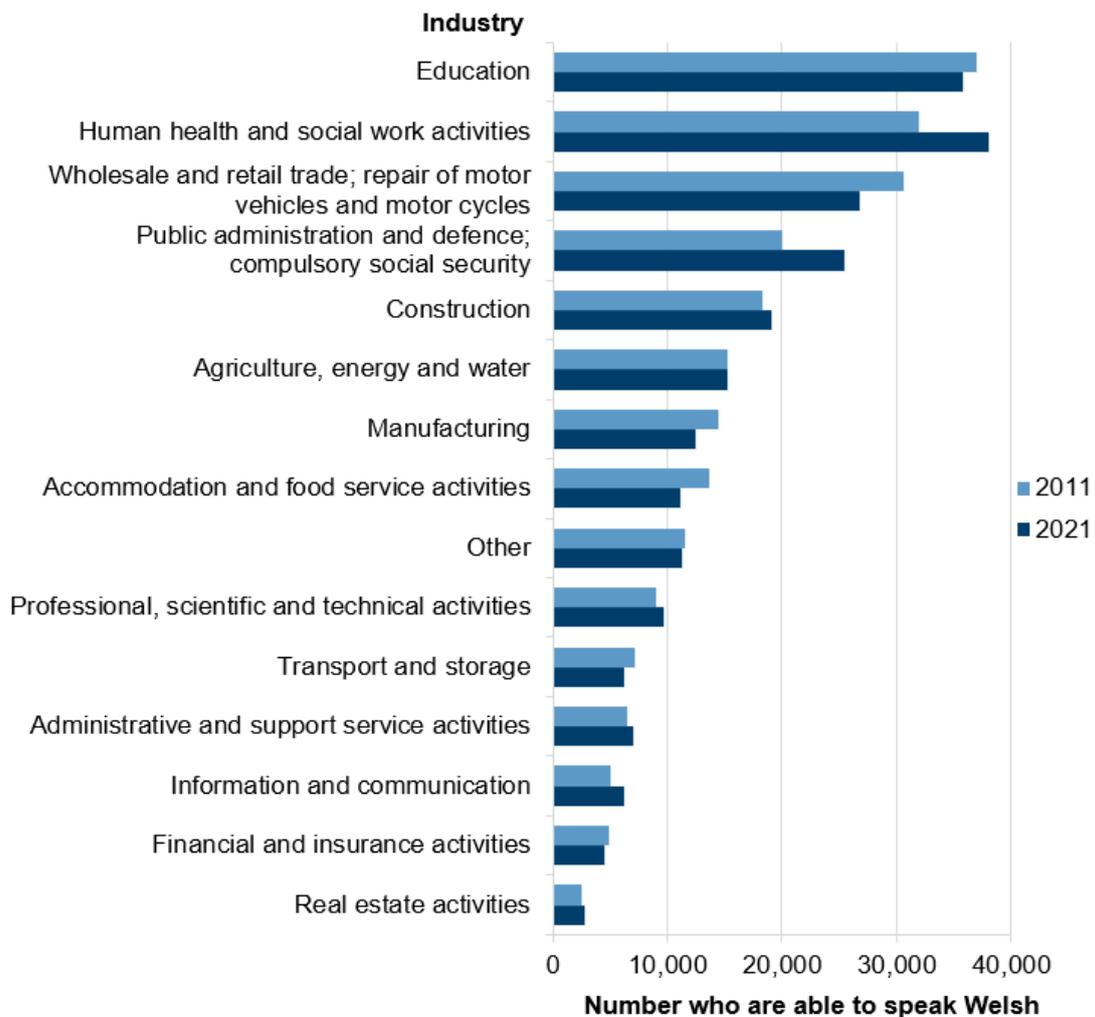
We can also look at the *numbers* of Welsh speakers working in each industry. Education was the industry with the largest number of Welsh speakers in 2011,

but more were working in the Human Health and Social Work Activities industry by 2021.

There were 6,110 more Welsh speakers working in the Human Health and Social Work Activities industry in 2021 compared to 2011. However, this should be viewed in the context of the growth in the size of the health workforce over the same period, partly to meet the demand for additional health workers during the pandemic.

More than half of the population aged 16 or over who are in work and able to speak Welsh worked in one of four industries: Human Health and Social Work Activities (16.5%), Education (15.5%), Wholesale and Retail Trade and Motors (11.6%) or Public Administration and Defence (11.0%).

**Chart 5: Number of the population aged 16 years or older who are able to speak Welsh by industry, 2011 and 2021**

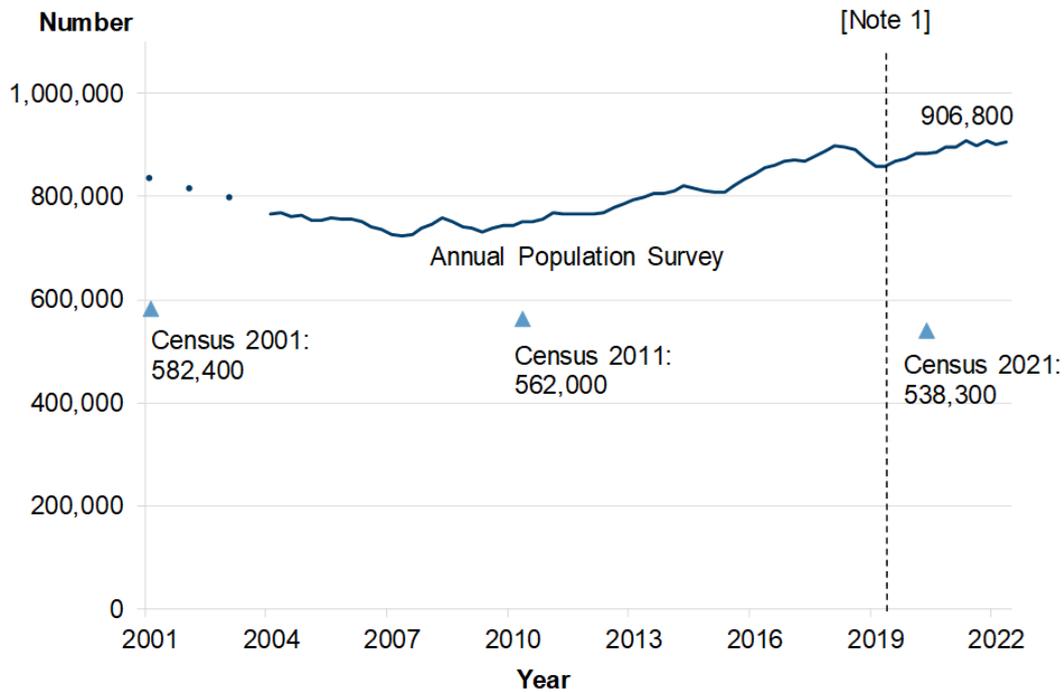


Source: Census of population, 2011 and 2021

The census is the key source used to measure the number of Welsh speakers in Wales. However, as an Annual Population Survey provides results quarterly,

this is a useful source to look at trends in the ability of the population in relation to the Welsh language between censuses.

**Chart 6: Number of people aged three years or older who are able to speak Welsh, 2001 to March 2023**



Source: Annual Population Survey and population census

[Note 1] Changed to phone interviews only.

Therefore, according to the Annual Population Survey, 906,800 people, or 29.7% of the population aged three or over, were able to speak Welsh in the year ending 31 March 2023.

Although the Annual Population Survey figures vary a little from year to year, we see that the number of Welsh speakers has been gradually increasing each year since March 2010, following a gradual fall from 2001 to 2007. The number of those who reported that they were able to speak Welsh fell between December 2018 and March 2020, before increasing again thereafter. However, we must treat this increase cautiously as the way the survey was conducted had to be changed from mid-March 2020 onwards due to COVID-19.

Annual Population Survey figures tend to be much higher than census figures. However, this is the first time the census has estimated a decrease in the number of people able to speak Welsh at the same time that the Annual Population Survey estimates that an increasing number of people are able to speak Welsh.

Following Government advice regarding the pandemic, the [Annual Population Survey](#) (as well as all other face to face studies conducted by the ONS about people, families and households) was suspended.

From mid-March 2020, the Annual Survey was conducted by telephone only. It must be recognised that changing the way the survey is conducted can affect the results. By comparing those who completed the survey over the phone and those who completed the survey face to face in the period before March 2020, respondents appeared to be more likely to say they were able to speak Welsh when answering the survey over the phone.

At present, it is not possible to tell whether any recent changes in the Welsh language abilities of the population are due to the change in the survey method or actual changes in the Welsh language abilities of the population. Therefore, the results should be interpreted with care.

In April 2023, we published a joint work plan with the Office for National Statistics detailing further work we will undertake to improve our understanding of these differences.

A key part of this work is linking 2021 Census data to ONS survey data through the Integrated Data Service. This innovative data linking project, one of the first projects to use the Integrated Data Service, will allow us to learn more about the groups of people who respond differently about their ability in Welsh between the census and the Office for National Statistics surveys, and to look at their characteristics.

The work plan also outlines how we will try to understand not only how these data sources differ, but why. This includes investigating why the differences between the data sources change over time by considering in more detail aspects of survey methods and survey design.

And finally, alongside the work already underway at the Office for National Statistics (ONS) to transform the Labour Force Survey, the ONS will consider how to further improve the range of statistics available about the Welsh language by assessing options for collecting information about people who are able to speak Welsh but live outside Wales.

## 1. Language transmission in the family

*Cymraeg 2050* sets out the Welsh Government's vision to "secure favourable circumstances... that support language acquisition and use of Welsh language skills". It notes the Government's desire to "see an increase in language transmission in the family, early introduction of Welsh to every child..."

We have continued to implement our [National Policy on Welsh Language Transmission and Use in Families](#) published in January 2021. The policy focuses on:

- Inspiring children and young people to speak Welsh with their children in the future.
- Rekindling people's Welsh language skills who may not have used their Welsh since leaving school, or who are lacking in confidence, to speak Welsh with their own children.
- Supporting and encouraging use of Welsh within families where not everybody speaks Welsh.
- Supporting Welsh-speaking families to speak Welsh with their children.

We are currently preparing to pilot interventions to contribute to the implementation of these objectives. The work is based on the behavioural sciences.

As well as the Transmission Policy, much work has already been undertaken in this field in Wales, and the policy builds on the work of Twf and Cymraeg i Blant (Cymraeg for Kids).

We fund a national Cymraeg for Kids scheme to support parents to use Welsh with their children, and to choose Welsh-medium childcare and education. Through a series of free sessions for parents and their children, a network of officers continues to support families to introduce and use Welsh at home, pass the Welsh language on to their children, and support children's linguistic, social and educational development.

Cymraeg for Kids is seen as an important step on the journey towards Welsh education, with many local authorities recognising the programme's contribution in their Welsh in Education Strategic Plans (WESPs).

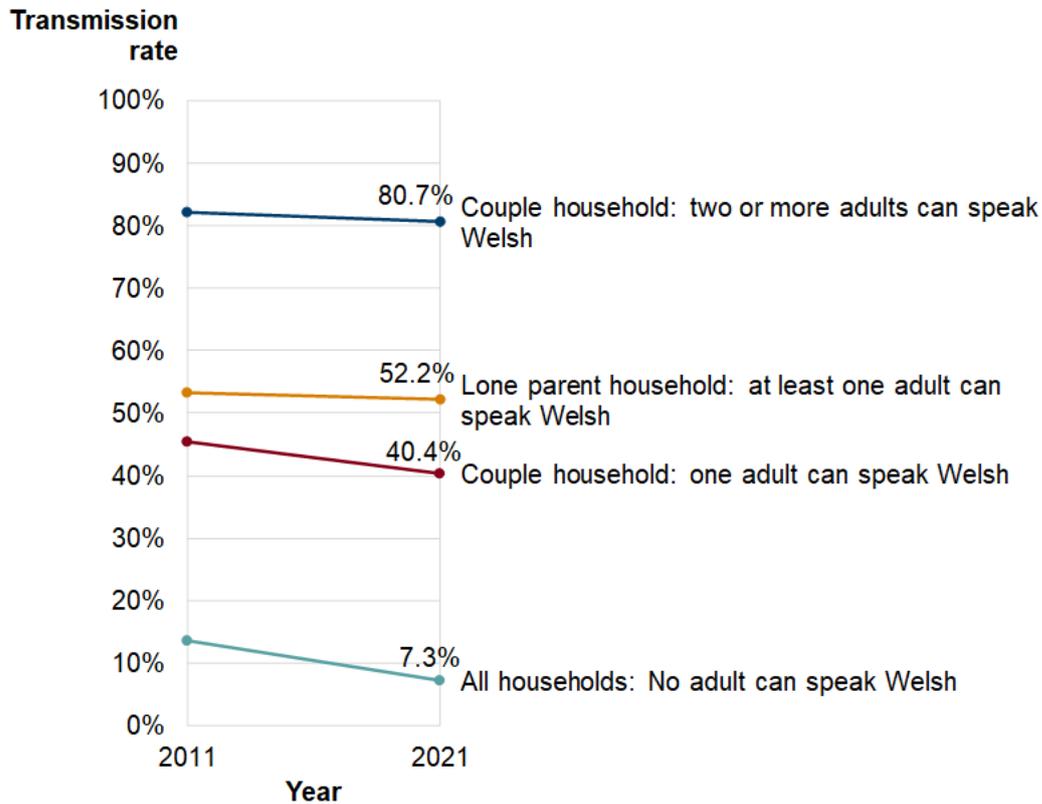
Face to face sessions have long resumed since COVID-19, but virtual support continues to be an important part of the package offered by Cymraeg for Kids. During 2022-23, 3,922 virtual and in-person sessions were held with 28,135 parents and 28,738 children supported.

### Language transmission data

We can use census data to measure the ability of 3 to 4 year olds to speak Welsh based on the ability of the adults of the household to speak the language. This provides a possible basis for examining the intergenerational transmission of Welsh (the process by which a language is passed down from generation to

generation through the normal family involvement of parents or guardians and children). It should be stressed that the census does not include data on Welsh usage, only ability.

### Chart 7: Percentage of children aged 3 to 4 who are able to speak Welsh by household type, 2011 and 2021



Source: Census of population, 2011 and 2021

In 2021, 80.7% of children aged 3 to 4, who lived in couple households where two or more adults could speak Welsh, were able to speak Welsh. This is referred to as the 'Welsh language transmission rate'. This is broadly consistent with 2011, when the rate was 82.2%. The transmission rate for single-parent households where at least one adult was able to speak Welsh was also fairly consistent between the two censuses – 52.2% in 2021 compared to 53.4% in 2011.

The transmission rate for couple households where one adult was able to speak Welsh decreased from 45.4% in 2011 to 40.4% in 2021. Similarly, the transmission rate for households where no adult was able to speak Welsh decreased from 13.5% in 2011 to 7.3% in 2021.

Welsh language transmission rates by household type varied by local authority. It should be noted that some of the numbers in these groups are small or unavailable due to statistical disclosure management. For couple households where two or more adults were able to speak Welsh, Cardiff and Gwynedd had the highest Welsh language transmission rate (88.9% and 88.7% respectively), while Torfaen had the lowest (60.0%). Overall, the transmission rate was highest in

those local authorities where a higher proportion of the population were able to speak Welsh. We will continue to scrutinise the patterns at county level and try to emulate and adapt what works in the counties with the highest rates in other counties.

Several relevant new questions were also asked as part of National Survey for Wales 2022-23 for Welsh speakers aged 16 or over with children. Here is a summary of the results:

- They were asked whether it was easy to speak Welsh with their child. 48% tended to agree or strongly agree. 40% tended to disagree or strongly disagree, and 12% did not agree or disagree. While 77% agreed with the statement in the North-west, the percentage was 38% in the South-east.
- They were asked whether they spoke Welsh with their child without thinking. 34% tended to agree or strongly agree. 57% tended to disagree or strongly disagree, and 8% did not agree or disagree.
- They were asked whether people who were important to them thought they should speak Welsh to their child. 42% tended to agree or strongly agree. 44% tended to disagree or strongly disagree, and 14% did not agree or disagree.
- They were asked whether it was normal in the local area for people to speak Welsh with their children. 37% tended to agree or strongly agree. 50% tended to disagree or strongly disagree, and 13% did not agree or disagree.

This data will support us as we continue to implement our *National Policy on Welsh Language Transmission and Use in Families*.

## 2. The early years

Our programme to expand early years provision, Set Up and Succeed (SaS), is closely aligned with the commitment in the *Co-operation Agreement* with Plaid Cymru to "... expanding free childcare to all two year-olds with a particular focus on<sup>1</sup> providing and strengthening Welsh-medium childcare".

We have set a target of establishing 60 groups (12 a year) during the current term of the Senedd in our *Cymraeg 2050 Work Programme for 2021-26*. To expand the number of groups more quickly, we have provided £250,000 in additional funding to Mudiad Meithrin during the 2022-23 financial year.

The *Co-operation Agreement's* commitment to expand provision is being achieved through the Flying Start programme. The relationship with the SaS programme is a close one, with 9 of the 16 provisions supported during the year either already providing Flying Start or intending to do so through SaS support.

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<sup>1</sup> SaS is administered by Mudiad Meithrin and 2022-23 is the fifth year of the programme. The programme expands Welsh-medium early years provision as an entry point into Welsh-medium education.

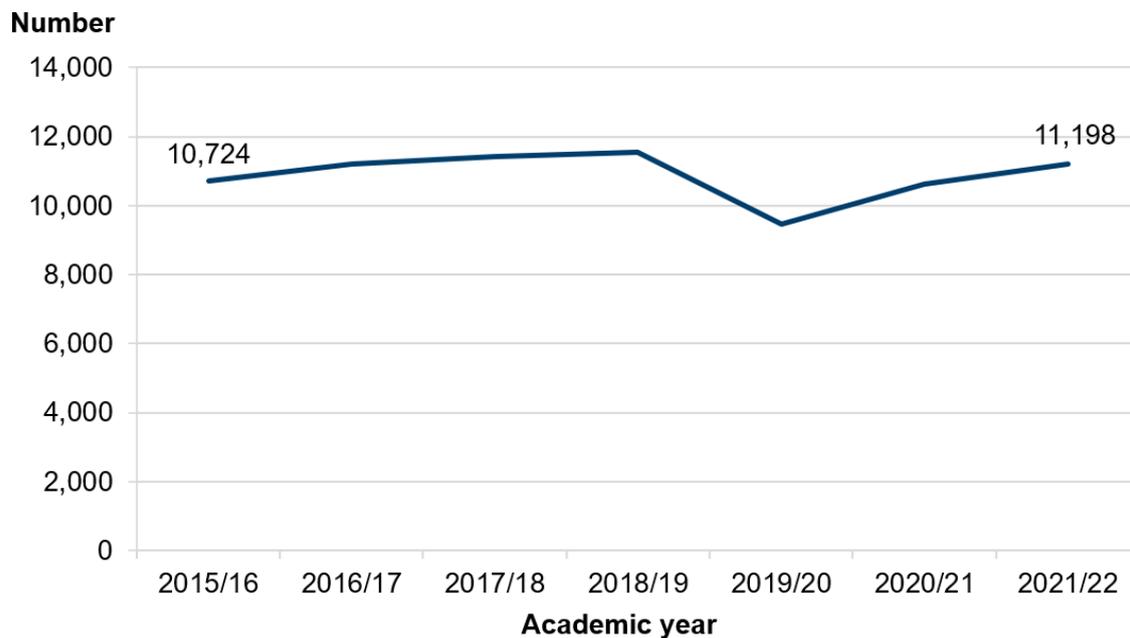
The number of children attending Cylchoedd Meithrin, and the percentage of those who then move on to Welsh-medium education, has increased somewhat since 2015/16. Numbers attending Cylchoedd Meithrin between 2018/19 and 2019/20 (Chart 8) decreased, but the latest figures for 2021/22 show an increase for the second consecutive year to 11,198.

We believe that the pandemic impacted this reduction during 2019/20, as a number of Cylchoedd Meithrin were closed during the first lockdown between March 2020 and the end of the summer term. This means that a number of children were unable to start at the Cylch during this time. This also affected the ability to track the number of children transitioning to Welsh-medium education.

The latest data shows some reduction in the percentage moving on to Welsh-medium education. This percentage has decreased from 89.3% in 2020/21 to 88.4% in 2021/22. The overall pattern throughout the last 7 years remains one of progress. It is possible that the end of the COVID-19 pandemic has impacted upon the figures and are hopeful that the trend will continue to increase in due course.

2022/23 data will be available by the end of 2023, and we intend to include a further update in our next *Cymraeg 2050* annual report.

### Chart 8: Number of children who have attended a Cylch Meithrin



Source: Mudiad Meithrin data

[Note 1] Cylchoedd Meithrin were closed between March and September 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

During 2022-23, work has continued to support childcare providers to strengthen and expand their Welsh-medium services. Through our work with Mudiad Meithrin, we have:

- Met the target of establishing over 60 new nursery groups in areas of need across Wales during the first five years of the expanding provision programme, Set Up and Succeed (SaS).
- Offered training to 2,450 practitioners and volunteers from Cylchoedd Meithrin across Wales through the Continuous Professional Development programme, 'Academi'.
- Continued to offer training opportunities to increase the number of Welsh-medium childcare practitioners.
- Continued to support parents and their young children through the Cymraeg for Kids programme.
- Continued to strengthen the link between Mudiad Meithrin and local authorities in light of the new requirements of the Welsh in Education Strategic Plans and the expansion of the Flying Start programme.
- Continued to work with other providers and partners to increase the proportion of children moving on from early years provision to Welsh-medium schools.
- Extended the reach of the 'Croesi'r Bont' training programme, which focuses on language acquisition and immersion and equipping practitioners with specialist skills for use with children from non-Welsh-speaking homes.

Working with the Cwlwm consortium over the past year, childcare practitioners received opportunities to develop their Welsh language skills for use at work, through the National Centre for Learning Welsh's Camau programme. Over 800 practitioners have received training specifically tailored to the needs of the childcare and early years education sector.

Looking beyond the Cylchoedd Meithrin and the work of Mudiad Meithrin in particular, 2022-23 has continued to be a challenging year for the childcare and playwork sector in Wales. Venues report seeing changes in demand for childcare as families face pressure from the cost of living crisis, and with more parents working from home.

We also commissioned independent research to ensure that the Childcare Sufficiency Assessments (CSAs), which assess the supply and demand for childcare by local authority, remain fit for purpose in terms of the Welsh language. The results of the research were published during October 2023. As we consider the results, we will look for information that addresses the alignment between the CSAs and the Welsh in Education Strategic Plans (WESPs), and what more can be done to ensure that these reports complement and support each other.

In addition, we have undertaken a review of childminding in Wales to better understand the needs of this part of the sector, and we have commissioned a wider mapping exercise of the childcare and play workforce. That mapping began during 2022-23 and will be published during January 2024.

We have also continued to work with the Cwlwm consortium to support the sector, progressing a range of projects and programmes. Cwlwm received £2.89m funding from the Welsh Government during 2022-23, and £190k was provided specifically to support work to increase Welsh-medium childcare provision in line with *Cymraeg 2050* requirements.

In addition to this, further Welsh Government funding of £3.787m was allocated to Cwlwm over a three-year period (2022-23: £0.903m, 2023-24: £1.706m, 2024-25: £1.178m) to support the delivery of the commitments in the *Programme for Government* and the *Co-operation Agreement* as they relate to the expansion of Welsh-medium activities. We will provide details in the next annual report.

Turning to Welsh-medium early years provision, we have maintained and expanded our Childcare Offer for Wales<sup>2</sup>. The findings of the latest independent evaluation of the Offer were published in March 2023, covering the 2021/22 academic year. Parental survey responses suggest that almost all parents who wanted to access Welsh-medium childcare provision during that year were able to do so (97% in 2021/22 compared to 93% in 2020/21).

From July 2022, 17,830 children were accessing the Offer, with 4,615 (26%) doing so in Welsh-medium settings. The latest evaluation of the Childcare Offer, covering September 2021-August 2022, is available [here](#). A further review of the provision of the Childcare Offer in Wales in 2022-23 is underway and findings will be published in spring 2024.

In November 2022, the National Digital Childcare Offer service for Wales was launched. The service is fully bilingual and is used by parents of 3 and 4 year olds and childcare providers across Wales to access or provide Welsh Government funded childcare.

We have worked with a range of practitioners and other experts to co-produce assessment arrangements to support practitioners in funded nursery settings that are not maintained to carry out their new legal duties in relation to assessment. We are committed to supporting children to take advantage of high quality play opportunities, and in 2022-23 our Summer of Fun 2022 included:

- £0.1m to provide free places at the Urdd Eisteddfod with 11,256 in attendance.
- £0.25m to Urdd Gobaith Cymru to deliver sport, arts and cultural provision in Welsh for 7,037 children and young people aged 3-25 across all 22 local authorities.
- £0.25m to the mentrau iaith to provide Welsh language initiatives for children and young people aged 0-25 across all 22 local authorities.
- £0.03m for Mudiad Meithrin to provide 3 fun family days attended by 275 children aged 0-5 and 233 families.

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<sup>2</sup> The Childcare Offer was introduced nationally in 2018 and provides 30 hours of funded childcare and early education for 48 weeks of the year for children aged 3-4. This includes at least 10 hours of early years education. It was initially targeted at parents in employment, then extended in September 2022 to include parents in education and training.

### 3. Statutory education

Education is central to our efforts to achieve the goal of increasing the number of Welsh speakers and also increase language use. *Cymraeg 2050* sets targets for education and the *Cymraeg 2050 Work Programme for 2021-26* provides further detail in relation to our targets.

*In the Co-operation Agreement, we have committed to "Introducing a Welsh Language Education Bill, which together with more immediate non-legislative work, will strengthen Welsh in Education Strategic Plans; setting new ambitions and incentives to expand the proportion of the education workforce who can teach and work through the Welsh language; establishing and implementing a single continuum of Welsh language learning; enabling existing schools to move into a higher Welsh language category, and incentivising the increase of Welsh-medium provision in all education settings".*

We report on our progress against targets, indicators and commitments in this section.

#### Welsh Language Education Bill

The Bill will take steps to enable all pupils in Wales to become independent Welsh speakers through the statutory education system.

A key step forward on the journey to develop the Bill was to publish a consultation on a White Paper outlining our policy proposals which, if accepted, will form the basis of the Bill.

Key proposals included:

- Reflecting the target of a million Welsh speakers in law.
- Creating a single Welsh language skills continuum to describe skill levels so that learners, teachers, parents and employers have a common understanding of the journey towards learning Welsh.
- Establishing a statutory system of categorising maintained schools according to language medium.
- Over time, enhancing Welsh language provision in maintained schools that are not already designated Welsh-medium schools.
- A requirement for Welsh Ministers to create a statutory National Plan for the acquisition and learning of Welsh.
- Reforming how local authorities plan Welsh language provision in schools in order to meet targets set by the Welsh Ministers.
- Requirements for local authorities to proactively promote Welsh-medium education, including late immersion provision.
- Providing specialist support for schools with Welsh language learning.

The consultation ran for 12 weeks between 27 March and 16 June 2023. We will publish a report summarising the consultation responses in due course. We will consider those responses as we continue to develop the Bill to be presented to the Senedd during this legislative year, before the summer 2024 recess.

## **Curriculum and Assessment (Wales) Act 2021**

The purpose of [the Curriculum and Assessment \(Wales\) Act 2021](#) is to establish a legislative framework to support the delivery of the Curriculum for Wales. In the Act, the Welsh language is a compulsory curriculum area for children and young people aged 3-16.

In accordance with the act, and after a period of consultation and co-planning with a group of practitioners, a Framework to support the learning and teaching of Welsh in English-medium schools and settings was published during the autumn term 2022.

To ensure Wales' qualifications are not only suitable to meet the evolving needs of learners and employers, but also appropriately reflect the Curriculum for Wales, Qualifications Wales have been reviewing and reforming the General Qualifications available to learners aged 14-16. We continue to work closely with Qualifications Wales as they progress phase 3 of this reform programme.

At the end of 2022, Qualifications Wales held a wide-ranging consultation on proposals for new Made-for-Wales GCSEs. This included detailed work and co-creation with stakeholders, including learners, teachers, parents, employers and other interested groups. The consultation on GCSE Welsh focused on making sure the new qualifications aligned with the Curriculum for Wales and enabled all learners to engage with all what matters statements in the languages, literacy and communication area holistically until the age of 16. The consultation asked for views on creating a single and double award for Welsh that integrates Language and Literature. The [decisions](#) made after analysing the responses to the consultation were published in June 2023.

### **Welsh within the new curriculum**

Welsh is a part of the new curriculum's Languages, Literacy and Communication Area of Learning and Experience. Welsh will continue to be a mandatory subject for all 3-16 year old learners, with flexibility for schools to decide the best way of ensuring the progression of learners in Welsh.

Progression in each Area of Learning and Experience is based on the concept of a learning continuum. In terms of Welsh, this means that each pupil develops from having little or no language, to being a learner that uses the language confidently and successfully.

In October 2022, we published the Welsh Language Framework for English-medium schools and settings. It underlines how the language is an integral part of the Curriculum for Wales and sets out the statutory requirements for the Welsh language, as well as identifying the experiences, knowledge, and skills that make up the Curriculum. The new framework was developed by teachers for teachers. It is designed to help schools develop their understanding of what should be learned, as well as their understanding of progress in Welsh language learning. Schools can use it as they design their curriculum and assessment to help identify the knowledge, skills and experiences that will be central to it all.

The Welsh language framework is intended to support English-medium schools to further develop this work. Projects such as the Welsh Government-funded Ein Llais Ni project developed jointly by GwE and Bangor University, and delivered across North Wales in Welsh-medium schools, have contributed to the promotion of oracy skills in Welsh. The project has now been shared across Wales and has received further Welsh Government funding to adapt it for English-medium schools.

## **Welsh in Education Strategic Plans (WESPs)**

After a period of intensive collaboration with local authorities, we're pleased to report that all Welsh in Education Strategic Plans (WESPs) have been in operation since September 2022. The statutory Plans outline how local authorities intend to improve the planning of Welsh in education in their areas over the next 10 years, based on a target aligned with *Cymraeg 2050*.

Each local authority has committed to its ambitious ten-year targets to increase Welsh-medium education provision. The plans include a clear emphasis on increasing the number of primary school locations across Wales, with commitments to establish 23 new Welsh-medium primary schools and expand 25 Welsh-medium primary schools over the next decade. Further information on the progress of local authorities in relation to their school capital schemes is provided below.

The WESPs also refer to teacher recruitment and higher education based on the advice and [recommendations](#) of the WESP Advisory Board. Further information on the Education Workforce is provided below.

The need to plan more purposefully alongside higher education institutions, local education consortia and local authorities was also identified. Work is being undertaken in co-operation with relevant Government departments to attract teachers, to improve teacher skills and offer support, and to purposefully plan the workforce with the aim of moving towards the targets.

The WESPs were forged only through close and ongoing collaboration, and it is only by maintaining that collaboration with various stakeholders that we will achieve our targets in this area.

## **School categorisation**

The categorisation policy is a key mechanism for a number of local authorities to meet their WESP target. Eight local authorities have included an intention to move schools along the continuum within their ten-year WESPs, with others committing to adopting the new arrangements as they expand Welsh-medium education provision in new areas within the county.

We have worked closely with the eight local authorities during 2022-23 to support them as they map their current provision and plan to increase Welsh language provision in schools and to move into a new category.

A national strategic group was established during the year for the eight local authorities to offer ongoing further support and guidance on practical issues relating to the categorisation policy. The strategic group has also offered local authorities the opportunity to share good practice, experiences, challenges and resources.

### **Provision for latecomers**

The [Cymraeg 2050 Work Programme for 2021-2026](#) and the *Programme for Government* include our commitment to expand the Late Immersion Programme to ensure that every newcomer has access to a Welsh-medium education when they need it and wherever they may be on their learning journey.

To build on the success of the late immersion grant (2021-22), £6.6m of additional revenue funding has been committed until the end of this Senedd term to support late immersion provision in all local authorities in Wales. Applications were approved for all local authorities in preparation for the beginning of September 2022. This is a great opportunity for all local authorities and their partners to expand their Welsh-medium late immersion provision in their schools and immersion centres.

The funding has ensured that there is late immersion provision in all local authorities. For some, the funding has supported, and will continue to support, provisions (centres or units) already established. For others, the funding has led to the ability to establish new late immersion provisions and will enable more learners to become bilingual speakers.

The late immersion grant recognises and supports the specialist workforce who are key to the success of this provision. The grant supports over 60 specialist roles across Wales. This includes some existing jobs and new jobs that have been created in counties where new late immersion provision is being established. There is a combination therefore of co-ordinators, immersion teachers and support teachers. Below, we detail some examples.

Ysgol Gwaun y Nant Language Centre welcomed their first cohort of latecomer learners at the end of February 2022 and have received 96 learners during the first year since the centre opened.

The course for latecomers at Ysgol Morgan Llwyd, Wrexham has been successful since it started in June 2022, with numbers increasing and the potential to open an additional immersion class.

Gwynedd Council has developed more locations as part of their [Aberwla](#) village project. They have also raised awareness of this project at a national level, and representatives from Wrexham, Conwy, Anglesey and Ceredigion have committed to trialling the virtual village at their own immersion centres.

As part of our commitment in the [Cymraeg 2050 Work Programme for 2021-26](#), we have established a network to support immersion education through the medium of Welsh. It was agreed to hold three sessions a year, the first in

December 2022 and the second in March 2023. 17 centres were represented from across Wales.

## **Capital funding**

Providing capital funding is an effective way to help create the demand for Welsh-medium education. That is done through ambitious planning and setting achievable targets, while also making the most of existing resources. The capital projects we will fund will make a significant contribution to Welsh-medium education across Wales. These projects will also promote the Welsh language locally.

The initial Welsh-Medium Education Capital Grant was established in 2018 with the second round following in 2021. We have invested over £112m in Welsh-medium capital projects since then, to support local authorities to deliver on their commitments in their Welsh in Education Strategic Plans. We have kept a reserve list of eligible projects to support in the future. During 2022-23, 11 capital projects from that list were supported, with the counties of Newport, Torfaen, Cardiff, Anglesey, Conwy, NPT and Powys benefitting from over £7m of investment towards improving provision, expanding or establishing new Welsh-medium schools.

During 2022-23, through a combination of Welsh-medium capital grant funding and wider Sustainable Learning Communities Programme investment, new Welsh-medium primary schools were opened in:

- Wrexham (Ysgol Llan-y-Pwll)
- NPT (Ysgol Gymraeg Tregales)
- Torfaen (Ysgol Gynradd Gwynllyw)
- And a seedling school in Merthyr Tydfil (in the Gurnos).

New school buildings also offered additional school places in the:

- Vale of Glamorgan (Ysgol Sant Baruc)
- Powys (Ysgol Gymraeg y Trallwng)

And schools were expanded in:

- RCT (Ysgol Gynradd Aberdâr and Ysgol Uwchradd Rhydywaun)
- Blaenau Gwent (Ysgol Bro Helyg)
- Pembroke (Ysgol Caer Elen)
- Flint (Ysgol Glanyrafon)
- Caerphilly (Ysgol y Castell).

Improvements have been made to learning provision / Additional Learning Needs provision in:

- Torfaen (Ysgol Gyfun Gwynllyw)
- Cardiff (Ysgol Gyfun Glantaf, Bro Edern and Plasmawr)
- NPT (Ysgol Gynradd Trebannws).

Childcare sites / nursery provision in schools were expanded in:

- Conwy (Cylch Meithrin Bro Aled)
- Anglesey (Ysgol Llanfawr and Ysgol y Graig childcare units).

There are a number of other schemes in the pipeline across Wales that will be realised during 2023-24 and 2024-25.

The Sustainable Schools Challenge Fund was announced during 2022-23. Of the 3 successful schools, 2 were Welsh-medium schools. The planning and design phase for the new net-zero schools – Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg Rhosafan, NPT and Ysgol Bontnewydd and Community Centre, Gwynedd is likely to last around 12 to 18 months.

All local authorities are required to submit a revised capital investment plan for the next 9 years by March 2024.

In addition to the Welsh education capital projects receiving formal funding, we supported the Urdd with their work to upgrade and develop their residential camp centres with capital funding. Urdd camp centres provide invaluable opportunities for children and young people to use their Welsh in transitioning from formal education to the world of learning beyond the classroom with leisure and fun activities.

During spring 2022, Glan-llyn Isa' was officially opened, a self-catering centre for smaller groups. Calon y Gwersyll, Llangrannog opened in November, and work has been carried out to develop Glan-llyn's water activities centre. Since then, the Urdd has opened its brand new environmental and well-being camp centre, Pentre Ifan.

### **Proportion of learners in Welsh-medium education**

One of the key aims of *Cymraeg 2050* is to increase the number of learners studying through the medium of Welsh.

Originally, we used teacher assessments to monitor educational trends and as a baseline for further analysis of the data. However, following the Welsh Government's decision to close schools on 20 March 2020 due to COVID-19, it was announced that institutions were not expected to submit any data collected as statutory data in the usual way under the circumstances. Therefore, National Data Collection for 2020 was cancelled due to the pandemic.

In recognising that closing schools impacted the annual data flow, in this report we have therefore used the percentage of learners who learn Welsh as a first

language, based on the Pupil Level Annual School Census (PLASC) in order to develop a broad picture of the situation in the absence of the usual data. Chart 9 below includes both sources in order to show consistency in the data, and to show our progress against this target.

The most recent PLASC data (2023), published in September, shows a small increase in reception class learners studying through the medium of Welsh, rising from 23.3% in 2021/22 to 23.8% in 2022/23. It is important to note, however, that the data is incomplete for learners in reception classes as it is not a statutory requirement for schools to report on the language medium of education in relation to learners younger than five years old at the start of the academic year.

The data shows a small percentage decrease in Year 1 learners studying through the medium of Welsh, falling from 23.9% in 2021/22 to 23.4% in 2022/23. In *Cymraeg 2050: 2021-26 Work Programme*, we have committed to increasing the percentage of Year 1 learners taught in Welsh to 26% by 2026.

According to the School Census, 23.4% of Year 2 learners were learning Welsh as a first language during the 2022/23 academic year, up from 23.1% in 2021/22.

Table 1 (below) shows an overall decrease in the number of pupils in nursery, reception and Year 1 classes receiving their education through the medium of Welsh in recent years. We may be starting to see signs of the impact of the pandemic on the choices of parents and their children, and we will be closely monitoring the data through local authority WESPs. It is also important to note that the size of the population as a whole has decreased, and that this also affects these numbers.

In 2011/12, there were 7,300 Year 2 learners (aged seven) learning Welsh as a first language, and 7,960 learners by 2022/23. The 660 additional children constitute over 22 new classes of 30 children. The percentage of Year 2 learners studying Welsh as a first language has also increased from 22.2% in 2011/12 to 23.4% in 2022/23.

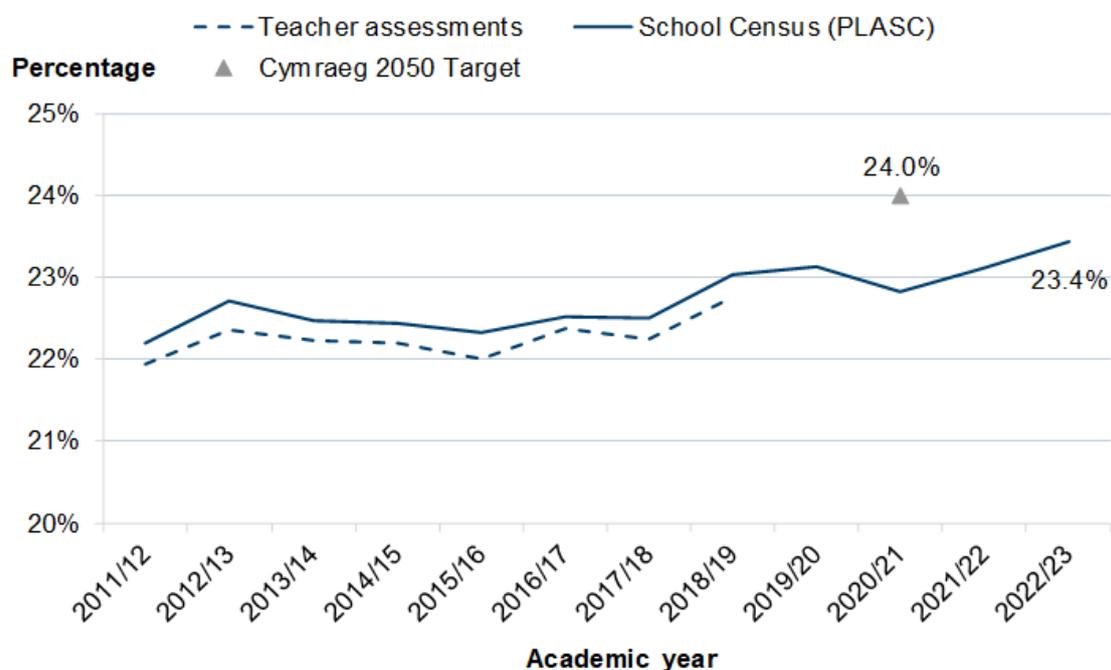
**Table 1: Number and percentage of pupils studying Welsh as a first language in Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 (2012-2023)**

	Nursery		Reception Class		Year 1		Year 2	
	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
2011/12	7,510	21.1%	8,160	23.8%	7,670	23.1%	7,300	22.2%
2012/13	7,010	20.1%	8,290	23.3%	7,830	23.0%	7,550	22.7%
2013/14	7,460	20.6%	7,980	23.0%	8,100	22.8%	7,650	22.5%
2014/15	7,540	20.6%	8,250	23.3%	7,860	22.7%	7,990	22.4%
2015/16	7,630	20.9%	8,290	23.0%	8,110	23.0%	7,760	22.3%
2016/17	7,650	21.4%	8,330	23.5%	8,120	22.6%	7,950	22.5%
2017/18	7,630	21.6%	7,970	23.2%	8,300	23.3%	8,100	22.5%
2018/19	7,720	22.0%	7,790	23.1%	8,060	23.4%	8,190	23.0%
2019/20	7,880	22.9%	7,900	23.5%	7,850	23.3%	7,970	23.1%
2020/21	8,580	23.0%	7,900	23.8%	7,900	23.4%	7,700	22.8%
2021/22	7,560	22.5%	7,540	23.3%	8,010	23.9%	7,840	23.1%
2022/23	7,200	22.4%	7,630	23.8%	7,690	23.4%	7,960	23.4%

Source: Pupil Level Annual School Census (PLASC)

[Note 1] Schools do not have to report on the number of pupils studying Welsh under the age of five on 31 August at the beginning of each academic year. This means that the information is not complete for nursery and reception class pupils.

**Chart 9: Percentage of Year 2 pupils (7 years old) assessed in Welsh as a first language or who learn Welsh as a first language**

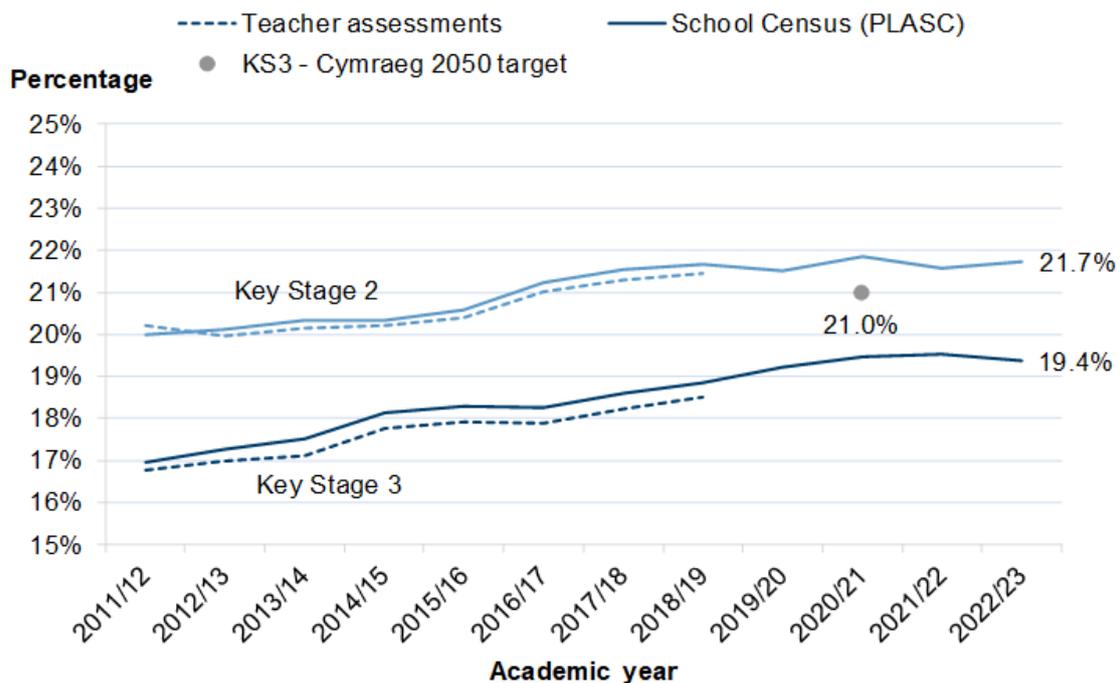


Source: Pupil Level Annual School Census (PLASC) and National Data Collection of teacher assessments

We have seen a decrease in the percentage of Year 7 learners studying through the medium of Welsh from 20.1% in 2021/22 to 19.3% in 2022/23, equating to around 90 less learners. This fall is mainly visible in western counties, and we will continue to work with the relevant local authorities through their Welsh in Education Strategic Plans to try to reverse this trend.

We are also monitoring the proportion of Year 9 learners (usually aged 14) assessed in Welsh (first language). This proportion has increased over time from 17.0% in 2011/12 to 19.4% by 2022/23. Again, as teacher assessments have not been available for the end of Key Stage 2 (end of primary school) or for the end of Key Stage 3 (Year 9 of secondary school) in a consistent manner, we are using the percentage of learners studying Welsh as a first language, using Pupil Level Annual School Census (PLASC) data. As with Chart 9 above, Chart 10 below also includes both sources side by side in order to show the overall consistency of the data.

**Chart 10: Percentage of learners at end of Key Stages 2 and 3 assessed in Welsh as a first language or who learn Welsh as a first language**



Source: Pupil Level Annual School Census (PLASC) and National Data Collection of teacher assessments

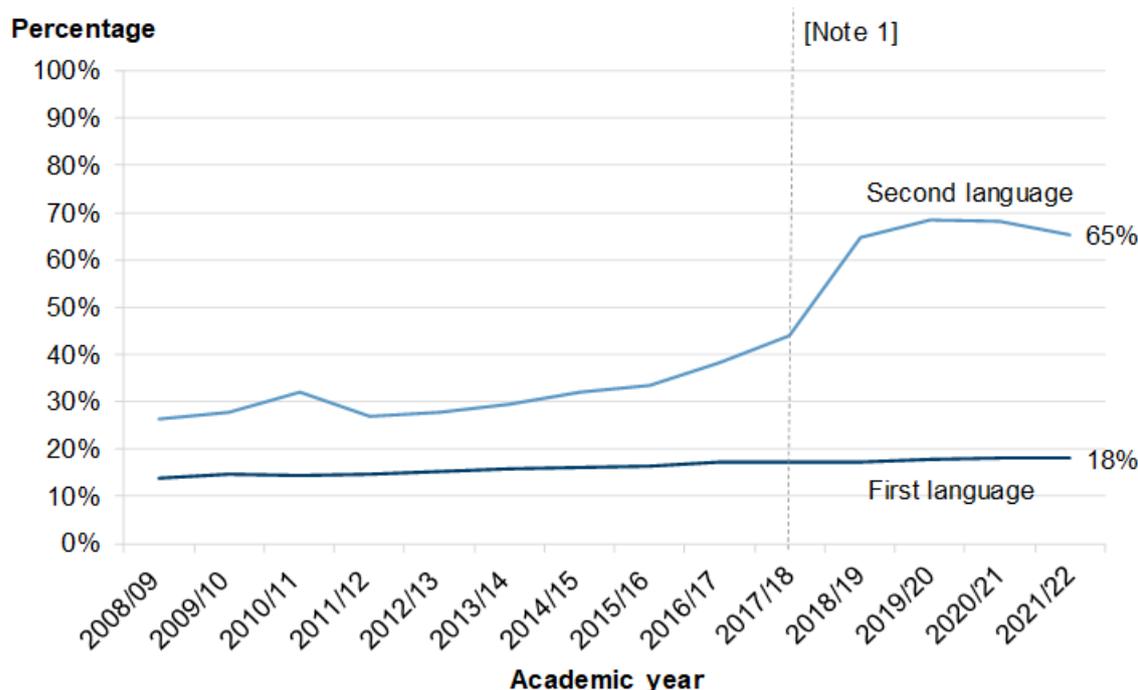
Chart 10 above shows that, according to the 2022/23 academic year school census, 21.7% of learners at the end of primary school and 19.4% of Year 9 learners in secondary schools learn Welsh as a first language. These percentages have increased slightly since 2011/12. However, the percentage learning Welsh as a first language in Key Stage 3 continues to be lower than the percentage in Key Stage 2 three years previously (for example, comparing Key Stage 2 in 2019/20 with Key Stage 3 in 2022/23).

However, local authorities are expected to continue to improve linguistic progression between the primary and secondary sector to ensure that our learners continue to develop their language skills on transition to secondary education, and that the number of learners switching to follow the Welsh second language route at Key Stage 3 is reduced. The work of the local authorities as they implement their WESPs will also be important in this context. The Welsh in Education Strategic Plans Regulations 2019 place an expectation on local authorities to set out in their Plans how they will ensure that learners taught through the medium of Welsh continue to be taught as such when transitioning from one year group to another year group, and to plan accordingly if continuity is of concern. We will monitor the progress of local authorities on the implementation of their WESPs on an annual basis.

As part of the new curriculum, a new continuum for languages has been developed, to include the Welsh language, and all learners will follow the same route for learning Welsh. Therefore, in future, schools will be expected to ensure that learners continue to develop their Welsh language skills as they move along the continuum.

The consultation that was held from 27 March to 16 June 2023 on the Welsh Language Education Bill proposes that provision should be included to impose a duty on Welsh Ministers to declare a Welsh language skills continuum that would emulate the Common European Framework of Reference (CEFR). The intention would be to provide a standard framework in Wales to provide clarity and common understanding about how to describe proficiency levels in Welsh.

**Chart 11: Percentage of Year 11 learners registered for GCSE Welsh (first language and second language)**



Source: Welsh Examinations Database (WED) and Pupil Level Annual School Census (PLASC)

[Note 1] GCSE Welsh Second Language was revised and first taught in its new form in September 2017, replacing the full and short GCSE courses that existed, explaining some of the increase in Welsh second language seen in the data.

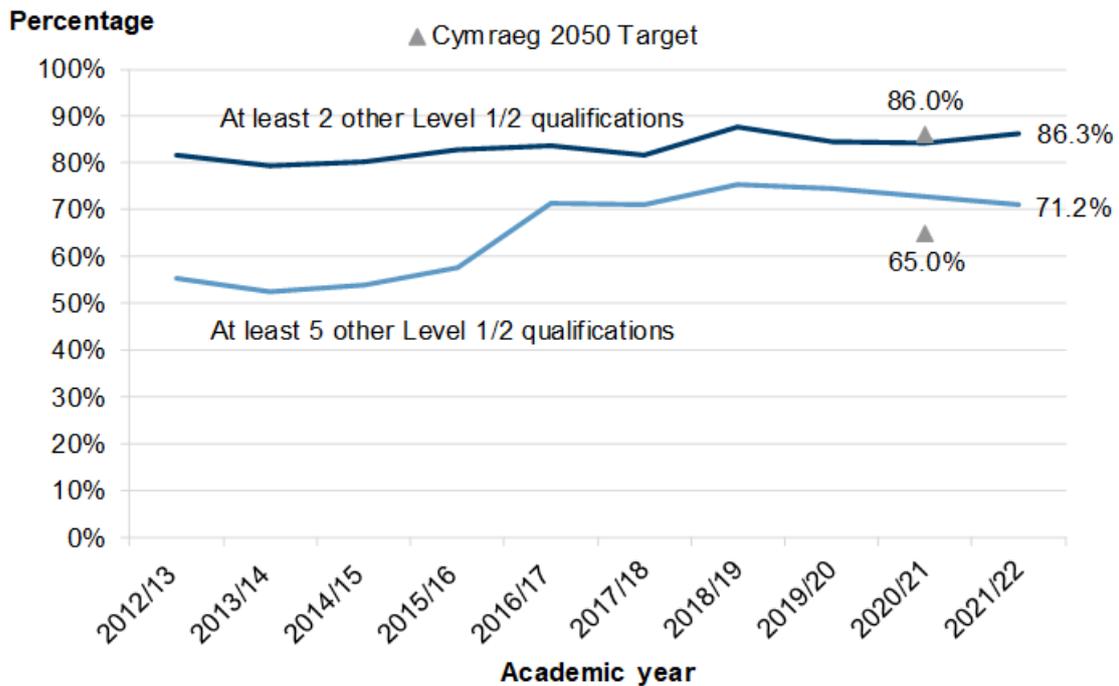
[Note 2] From 2015/16, the cohort is based on pupils in Year 11. Up to 2014/15, the cohort is based on pupils aged 15 at the start of the academic year.

According to the 2021 Census, 33% of 16-17 year olds were able to speak Welsh.

There has been an increase in the percentage of learners enrolling to sit the Welsh first language and second language (full course) GCSE since 2008/09, as shown in Chart 11 above.

Chart 11 also shows that 83% of Year 11 learners had enrolled to sit a GCSE in Welsh as a first or second language in 2021/22 (18% Welsh first language, and 65% Welsh second language). This has increased over the past decade from 70% in 2008/09 (14% Welsh first language, and 56% Welsh second language) – note that this percentage includes learners who had signed up for a short second language course.

## Chart 12: Percentage of pupils registered for the Welsh first language GCSE who are registered for at least two or five other Level 1/2 qualifications through the medium of Welsh



Ffynhonnell: Welsh Examinations Database (WED) and Pupil Level Annual School Census (PLASC)

[Note 1] Following the cancellation of public examinations, all qualifications (which would normally have been taken as examinations) were awarded in the 2020/21 summer term on the basis of an assessed grades model set by individual centres. That is, pupils' grades and qualifications were determined by schools and colleges. They were awarded based on assessments of learners' work, using a range of evidence such as non-exam assessments, mock examinations and classroom work.

[Note 2] Pupils awarded a qualification before the 2019/20 summer exam series will have grades achieved through a written exam, not a grade awarded to them by a centre.

[Note 3] The 2021/22 examination period was a transitional year, where relevant qualifications sat by Welsh pupils returned to written examination. This was not a complete return to pre-pandemic examinations. To compensate for any disruption to the school timetable, pupils who sat exams in 2021/22 were given a wider choice of questions from the syllabus, with Qualifications Wales setting results broadly midway between 2018/19 (the last time examinations were sat) and 2020/21 outcomes.

Chart 12 above shows that 86.3% of learners enrolled for the Welsh first language GCSE in 2021/22 were also enrolled for at least two other qualifications through the medium of Welsh. There has been a steady increase since 2013/14, and the target of 86% was achieved by 2021.

71.2% of learners enrolled for the Welsh first language GCSE in 2021/22 were also enrolled for at least five other qualifications through the medium of Welsh. This figure has increased substantially since 2015/16 and has long since reached the target of 65% by 2021.

The 2022/23 academic year data will become available before Christmas, and we will include a further update in our next *Cymraeg 2050* annual report.

## **e-sgol**

The e-sgol<sup>3</sup> project has been expanding annually since its launch in 2018. During 2022/23, 52 courses (GCSE, AS and A-level) were offered across 32 schools to 454 pupils.

Participation in the project is voluntary and is available to all parts of Wales. 15 local authorities referred to e-sgol in their Welsh in Education Strategic Plans, with many of them considering adopting the project. A further 12 schools became involved in the project in September 2023 and a further 6 schools are expected to join in September 2024, with discussions underway to further expand the programme. Welsh Government funding for e-sgol for the reporting year was £600,000, which is an increase on the previous reporting year, and this has allowed for more work to promote the project.

In 2022, pupils taking A-level courses through e-sgol achieved higher grades than the national average, with 99.3% of e-sgol students achieving A\*-E grades compared to the national average of 98%, and 36.9% achieving A\* compared to the national average of 17.1%.

Over the past two years, Carlam fast-track revision sessions have been delivered under e-sgol. GCSE, AS and A-level students across Wales have taken advantage of these valuable sessions. During 2022/23, 151 Carlam fast-track sessions were delivered by 50 teachers in 13 GCSE subjects, 9 AS subjects and 8 A-level subjects. In addition to the pupils who joined the live sessions, nearly 48,000 had viewed the sessions on the Carlam YouTube channel up to the end of June 2023.

## **Promoting Welsh-medium education**

The marketing resources developed last year were shared on our social media channels and YouTube again during the reporting year. These included a series of videos with teachers and parents to try to answer the most common questions being asked about Welsh-medium education, as well as a video explaining more about the school categorisation system. These resources are part of our social media programme and we will continue to share them at certain times when parents are likely to make choices about their children's education.

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<sup>3</sup> The e-sgol project is based on the Scottish e-sgoil. It is a blended learning initiative that provides online teaching and learning opportunities using direct, real-time and interactive approaches. Using the range of equipment and services available through Hwb, it has allowed students from different schools to access digital teaching opportunities by qualified and experienced teachers.

A hub has been created for local authorities and others so that they can access all marketing material, with examples of social media posts to accompany the resources to facilitate sharing.

A series of insights on parents' attitudes towards Welsh-medium education has been commissioned to form the basis for a campaign to promote Welsh-medium education. These included a YouGov survey, an in-depth look at conversations on social media and vlogs over the course of a year, and also an activity to create personas for audience segmentation.

We have also awarded funding to Menter Caerffili to employ a Champion for the Promotion of Welsh-Medium Education in the South-east to work with local authorities and other partners to raise the profile and promote the provision of Welsh-medium education across the region.

#### **4. Post-compulsory education**

Education and training are at the heart of our vision to develop and sustain the Welsh language in *Cymraeg 2050*. In considering the important developments in the field of Welsh-medium education in the new curriculum, ensuring linguistic continuity from statutory education to all elements of post-16 education and training is vitally important.

We are focusing our efforts on creating more opportunities for young people to learn and train through the Welsh language. We also want to ensure an effective system provides a strong foundation for adults and young people to learn Welsh.

We also want to see more students with higher language skills, so that they can continue to study Welsh at university to create the next generation of academics, Welsh teachers and a workforce where high-level language skills are needed, such as the media, broadcasting, translation, public administration and law.

Chart 11 above shows an increase from 70% to 83% of Year 11 learners that have enrolled to take a GCSE in Welsh since 2008/09. These percentages include pupils enrolling for first language and second language Welsh courses. The increase in the percentage who have enrolled to take a GCSE in Welsh is not transferring to the number taking Welsh at A-level.

Chart 13 below shows that there has been a decrease of 68 A-level Welsh first language and Welsh second language enrolments from 519 in 2020/21 to 451 in 2021/22<sup>4</sup>.

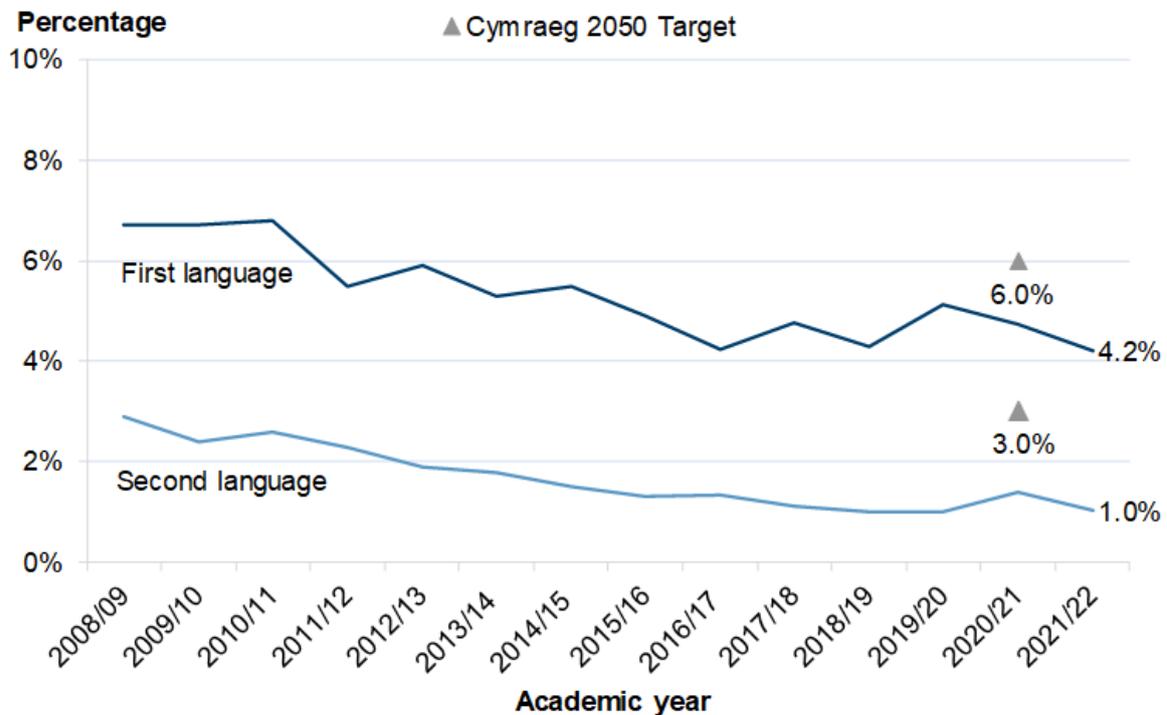
This is monitored by looking at how many learners have enrolled to take Welsh at A-level as a percentage of those enrolled to take Welsh at GCSE level two years previously. The 2022/23 data will be available before Christmas and we plan to include a further update in the next annual report. Chart 13 below is based on data up to 2021/22.

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<sup>4</sup> The data includes the advanced level course enrolments of all pupils including:

- Learners not in maintained schools (pupils in colleges or not in formal education).
- Learners who joined the school after the census was conducted.

**Chart 13: A-level Welsh course enrolments as a percentage of GCSE Welsh course enrolments two years previously – first and second language**



Source: Welsh Examinations Database (WED) and Pupil Level Annual School Census (PLASC)

[Note 1] Following the cancellation of public examinations, all qualifications (which would normally have been taken as examinations) were awarded in the 2020/21 summer term on the basis of an assessed grades model set by individual centres. That is, pupils' grades and qualifications were determined by schools and colleges. They were awarded based on assessments of learners' work, using a range of evidence such as non-exam assessments, mock examinations and classroom work.

[Note 2] Pupils awarded a qualification before the 2020 summer exam series will have grades achieved through a written exam, not a grade awarded to them by a centre.

[Note 3] The 2021/22 examination period was a transitional year, where relevant qualifications sat by Welsh pupils returned to written examination. This was not a complete return to pre-pandemic examinations. To compensate for any disruption to the school timetable, pupils who sat exams in 2021/22 were given a wider choice of questions from the syllabus, with Qualifications Wales setting results broadly midway between 2018/19 (the last time examinations were sat) and 2020/21 outcomes.

Chart 13 above shows the progression of learners moving from GCSE to A-level. By the 2021/22 academic year, 4.2% of learners who had enrolled to take Welsh first language GCSE two years previously were enrolled to take Welsh first language A-level. It also shows that 1.0% of learners who had enrolled to take Welsh second language GCSE two years previously were enrolled to take Welsh second language A-level.

The percentage of those who enrolled to take Welsh at GCSE, who also enrol to study Welsh at A-level (both as a first and second language) has fallen over the past decade. One of the reasons for the decline is the overall increase in other subjects available to study at A-level, and the increased emphasis on studying STEM subjects. The numbers studying English and modern foreign languages at A-level have also fallen significantly – it is not unique to Welsh. The 83% of Year 11 learners referred to in Chart 11 above (enrolled to sit GCSE Welsh first or second language in 2021/22) have not yet finished studying their A-levels. We will have to wait for the 2022/23 and 2023/24 data to show the true current position in the numbers moving on from GCSE to A-level. However, further work is needed to ensure that pupils follow the most suitable GCSE route for them.

One of the outcomes of the WESPs is that local authorities plan to increase the number studying Welsh at A-level. In many areas, the numbers studying Welsh in schools are low, and based on that, schools cease to offer the subject. As part of the new WESPs, we will be closely monitoring the situation to ensure the subject is available across Wales.

During the reporting year, we collaborated with the Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol to develop assets and a brand for running an ongoing campaign to promote Welsh as an A-level subject. The campaign was launched in September 2022.

Increasing the number studying Welsh is one of the actions of the [Welsh in education workforce plan](#), to ensure an adequate supply of Welsh teachers for the future. During the 2022/23 academic year, £145,000 was awarded to support this work. 63 schools and colleges received a grant of up to £3,000 each to support activities to improve the experiences of pupils studying Welsh, and to support the cost of maintaining provision in settings where the numbers studying the subject were low. Funding has also been allocated to establish and run a pilot scheme to promote Welsh as a subject among Year 10 and 11 learners in Welsh-medium and English-medium schools across Wales. The sessions took place in the summer of 2023. An evaluation of the activities undertaken to promote the Welsh language has also been commissioned. The report will be published during the autumn term 2023.

### **Further education**

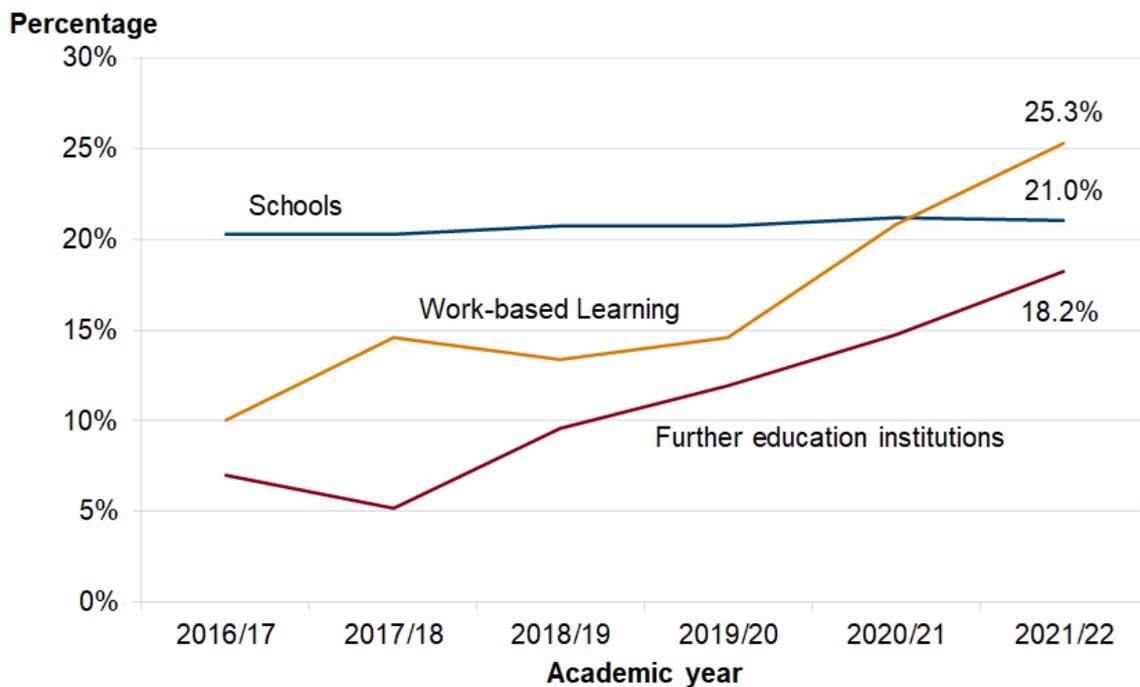
*In the Co-operation Agreement, we have committed to "Invest in the Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol and the National Centre for Learning Welsh to increase the proportion of Welsh-medium apprenticeships and further education and provide free Welsh language learning for 16 to 25-year-olds".*

As a result of this commitment, we will have invested additional funding by 2024-25 to ensure that the Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol increases the proportion of Welsh-medium apprenticeships and further education available. This funding will also enable the National Centre for Learning Welsh to provide free Welsh lessons to 16 to 25-year-olds and to the education workforce.

An additional £1.5m was provided to the Coleg during 2022-23. This funding was used to support further education colleges and apprenticeship providers to increase their Welsh-medium education capacity in priority areas such as health and social care, childcare, sport and leisure, and land-based studies. The funding also supported two Initial Teacher Education projects, including a project to attract undergraduates back to Wales to train as teachers to teach through the medium of Welsh.

We are also eager to see an increase in Welsh-medium and bilingual provision in the further education sector. Chart 14 below shows the progress made according to provider type.

**Chart 14: Percentage of educational activities undertaken by learners aged 19 or under held in Welsh or bilingually according to type of provider at 31 August in the academic year**



Source: Lifelong Learning Wales Record (LLWR); Post-16 Collection

[Note 1] Counts exclude Welsh language qualifications e.g. Welsh GCSE, Welsh A level, Welsh for Adults.

[Note 2] Counts exclude Higher Education level learning aims.

[Note 3] For work based learning, the type of provider is determined based on the lead provider delivering the learning. This differs to the consortium member basis used in statistics published elsewhere.

[Note 4] Work based learning includes Apprenticeships and Traineeships. Jobs Growth Wales+ (JGW+) provision is excluded. JGW+ statistics are reported on a financial year basis, separately from other types of provision collected via the Lifelong Learning Wales Record. Traineeships were discontinued on 31 March 2022 with JGW+ coming into operation for new starts on 1 April 2022.

As seen in Chart 14 above, the percentage of learning activities held in Welsh or bilingually in further education institutions and in the work-based learning sector has significantly increased since 2017/18. This increase has been primarily driven by an increase in the number of bilingual activities provided in these sectors. There has also been a gradual increase in the number of activities taking place in schools over the same period.

Since publishing the Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol's *Welsh-Medium Further Education and Apprenticeship Action Plan* (December 2018), the Coleg has supported a number of strategic projects, with 51 grants awarded to colleges and 11 grants awarded to apprenticeship providers during the 2022/23 academic year. These projects focused on the priority areas of health and care, childcare, public services, sports and land-based studies, to establish a robust infrastructure for the provision and to increase the number of learners studying through the medium of Welsh and bilingually.

As a result, 40 members of staff at further education colleges and 12 members of staff with apprenticeship providers were funded during the 2022/23 academic year.

Ensuring that appropriate resources are available to accompany Welsh-medium qualifications is key to the growth of Welsh-medium and bilingual provision. During the 2022/23 academic year, a number of learning resources have been developed, including:

- Case studies for the Business sector.
- A new app to support people studying or working in sport to improve their confidence when speaking Welsh.
- Safe Farm VR / AR resource.

Prentis-iaith, an interactive resource in the apprenticeship sector, continues to be particularly successful in improving understanding of bilingualism and the importance of customer service amongst apprentices who have no or very few skills in Welsh. A number of apprenticeship providers have already incorporated Prentis-iaith into their programmes and, following the demand for additional levels, resources for confidence and fluency levels have been published to further increase the skills of apprentices.

The Learner Ambassador scheme for the post-16 sector is also going from strength to strength. During the 2022/23 academic year, 71 ambassadors promoted Welsh language opportunities among their peers across Wales, supporting providers to build learners' confidence in their Welsh language skills, and to provide opportunities to chat and understand the importance of speaking the language, particularly in the workplace. Training for tutors / practitioners is key in expanding provision. During the 2022/23 academic year, over 600 were trained in the post-16 sector.

During the same period, 91 members of staff were supported to become more confident in Welsh, and be able to use their Welsh in their everyday work through a National Mentoring Programme for the post-16 sector.

In August 2021, the Gwreiddio Scheme for post-16 staff was launched with the aim of fostering a community of staff to increase the level of Welsh-medium provision. During 2022/23, 270 members of staff were enrolled on the Scheme.

### **Higher education**

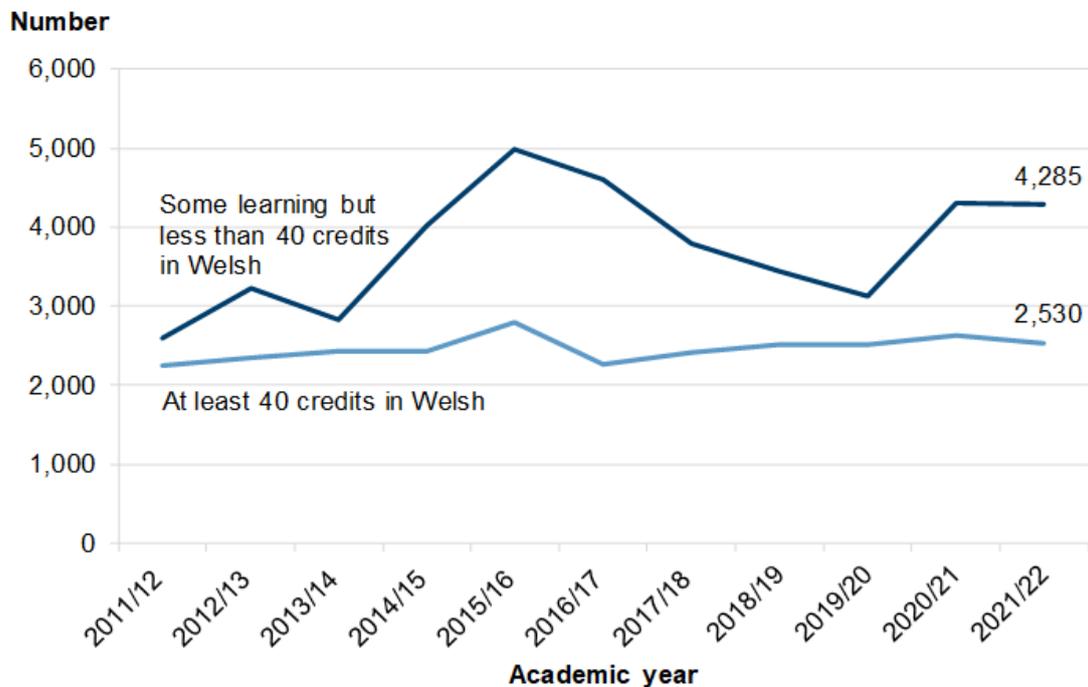
The Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol supports universities to develop modules and courses through grants in conjunction with the institutions, rather than funding lecturer posts, thereby embedding the provision as an integral part of the offer. Welsh-medium provision is now available across 25 subject areas.

In 2022/23, over 60 grants were awarded to support provision through the medium of Welsh, including 55 subject grants and 5 incentive grants.

10 new research scholarships were awarded in 2022/23 in a range of academic subjects, with 32 research scholarships continuing under the sponsorship of the Coleg.

When the Coleg was established in 2011, 710 staff at universities were able to learn through the medium of Welsh. The figure has now risen to 1,065. The lecturers are supported through a monthly academic staff training programme which includes face to face training, distance learning and workshops.

## Chart 15: Student enrolments in higher education institutions in Wales with teaching through the medium of Welsh



Source: Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) Student Record

[Note 1] Numbers exclude students registered at further education institutions.

[Note 2] Students in Wales includes students enrolled at the Welsh national centre of the Open University.

There was a decrease of 125 in the number of enrolments by students at Welsh universities who were using some Welsh in their education between 2020/21 and 2021/22. Enrolment numbers remain 1,180 higher than in 2019/20. It should be noted that there has been a significant increase in overall enrolments between 2019/20 and 2021/22.

In 2023, the new Tertiary Education and Research Commission was established which will be responsible for the funding, oversight and regulation of tertiary education and research in Wales. The new Commission will have a vital role in expanding the Welsh-medium and bilingual offer in tertiary education. In particular, the Commission will be expected to:

- Plan strategically to promote and increase Welsh-medium tertiary education.
- Encourage providers to deliver, develop and increase their Welsh-medium tertiary education.
- Encourage providers to plan progression routes so that Welsh speakers can continue their learning post-16 and develop their Welsh language skills, and to offer opportunities to use the Welsh language in order to create a bilingual workforce.

- Monitor the availability and uptake of Welsh-medium learning opportunities and any subjects where the demand for Welsh-medium learning cannot be met at the moment.
- Work effectively and strategically with the Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol to achieve the above.

## Learning Welsh

The National Centre for Learning Welsh (the Centre) was established in 2015 to co-ordinate provision and provide direction to the Welsh learning domain. Its aim is to create new Welsh speakers, confident in using their new skills, and therefore contributing to achieving our ambition of a million Welsh speakers by 2050, as well as doubling daily use of the language.

On 31 March 2023, the Centre published [a complete data set for the 2021/22 academic year](#). The data shows that the Centre had 15,260 unique learners during the 2021/22 academic year. The data also shows that:

- The Centre provided 27,345 learning activities during 2021/22.
- 68% of learners were at Entry level (this is the introductory level for beginners).
- 11% were at Foundation level and 23% at Intermediate or Advanced levels (including Proficiency level).
- 72% of learners were between the ages of 25 and 64, 15% were older than 65, and 13% were between the ages of 16 and 24.

In September 2022, the Centre began implementing the Onwards With Welsh scheme, which offers free Welsh lessons to 16-25 year olds. The courses are tailored to the ability of individuals, from taster courses or Entry up to Advanced and Proficiency levels. Free lessons are also being offered to the education workforce – be they headteachers, teachers or teaching assistants, to support our efforts to increase the workforce able to teach through the medium of Welsh.

The Centre is also leading on a project to encourage young Welsh speakers to return from universities to help to teach Welsh in schools. The first course of its kind was held in July 2022 for 15 undergraduates, to give them a taste of being a Learn Welsh tutor or teacher. A further update will be shared in the next annual report.

The Centre's Work Welsh programme provides Learn Welsh courses for the workplace, including online self-study taster courses, tutor courses and intensive residential courses. Further information is provided in section 6 on the workplace below.

## **5. The education workforce, resources and qualifications**

### **The Early Years Workforce**

We have commissioned a mapping exercise of the childcare and play workforce. This mapping began in 2022-23 and will be published during the winter of 2023-24. The aim of the work is to provide an accurate picture of the size and composition of the childcare and play workforce in Wales. This will include the current workforce, patterns over previous years and projections for the future, based on past trends and expected future needs. The research will be used to inform policy to support and develop the childcare and play workforce now and over the next five years.

In terms of training, Mudiad Meithrin's Academi continuous professional development programme offered training to over 2,450 members of staff and volunteers from Cylchoedd Meithrin the length and breadth of Wales during 2022-23.

Furthermore, through the Mudiad Meithrin National Training Scheme, 15 apprentices qualified through the Level 3 Children's Care, Play, Learning and Development Apprenticeships in March 2023. In addition, 5 apprentices have completed the Level 5 Leadership and Management in Children's Care, Play, Learning and Development Apprenticeship during 2023, and 18 apprentices have started work in January 2023.

In addition, during the reporting year, 96 pupils across 15 schools have been involved in Mudiad Meithrin's Cam Wrth Gam Schools Scheme which offers Level 1, Level 3, GCSE and A-level qualifications in childcare.

As part of the additional funding provided to Cwlwm during 2022-23 relating to the expansion of Welsh-medium activities, £2.112m has been provided to Mudiad Meithrin for a period of 24 months to support the provision of an additional 100 recruits to undertake Welsh-medium Level 3 childcare qualifications and an additional 50 to undertake Welsh-medium Level 5 childcare qualifications.

Camau, the National Centre for Learning Welsh's training programme has also enabled current and future practitioners to qualify and work confidently through the medium of Welsh. During 2022-23, 662 individuals followed the course. In addition, 146 individuals have enrolled on the Information about the Welsh Language course (a course that raises workforce awareness of the importance of increasing Welsh language skills to pass on to young children).

### **Teachers**

Increasing the number of teachers who can teach Welsh or can teach through the medium of Welsh is one of the transformational changes set out in the *Cymraeg 2050* strategy. To see a growth in the number of learners in Welsh-medium education, it is necessary to ensure an adequate workforce to educate them, and this can be challenging.

In *Cymraeg 2050*, we have set the following goals by 2031:

- 3,900 primary teachers able to teach through the medium of Welsh.
- 4,100 secondary teachers able to teach through the medium of Welsh.

The latest data from the Pupil Level Annual School Census for the 2022/23 academic year shows that: 2,874 primary teachers are able to teach through the medium of Welsh and 2,555 secondary teachers are able to teach through the medium of Welsh. These figures therefore show an increase in the number of teachers able to teach through the medium of Welsh over the last three years. The increase is seen in primary and secondary schools, but the increase is more significant in secondary schools (see Chart 16 below).

Attracting a sufficient number of teachers to teach Welsh or through the medium of Welsh remains a challenge. During 2022-23, a number of the steps set out in the [Welsh in education workforce plan](#) were implemented.

In order to increase the number of teachers able to teach Welsh and other subjects through the medium of Welsh:

- We have changed the entry requirement for Initial Teacher Education programmes from grade B to grade C for GCSE Maths and Welsh or English.
- We have funded a further twenty places for primary teachers who want to switch to secondary teaching through the Conversion Programme.
- Ahead of Easter 2023, the second grant round opened to develop the capacity of the Welsh-medium workforce, with a total of £800,000 in the fund. This helps schools develop innovative ways to solve some of their recruitment challenges.
- The Open University has extended its employment-based teaching pathways, to include design and technology and computer science from September 2023.
- The Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol has established Cadw Cyswllt which promotes opportunities for students in England to return to Wales to prepare to teach.
- We have also commissioned the Education Workforce Council to undertake a scoping exercise, to consider pathways to post-16 teaching.

There is more to be done to increase the number of teaching assistants and support workers who are able to work through the medium of Welsh, particularly to support our most vulnerable learners. However, we have been able to move forward with some of the work, including:

- Running a pilot scheme providing school leavers with a one-year placement, so they can become teaching assistants in a cluster of three primary schools in Torfaen.
- Funding a number of projects to increase the number of teaching assistants through the capacity grant launched in May 2022.
- Gwynedd Council plans to trial full-time roles where employees will spend some hours as teaching assistants and some hours supporting other

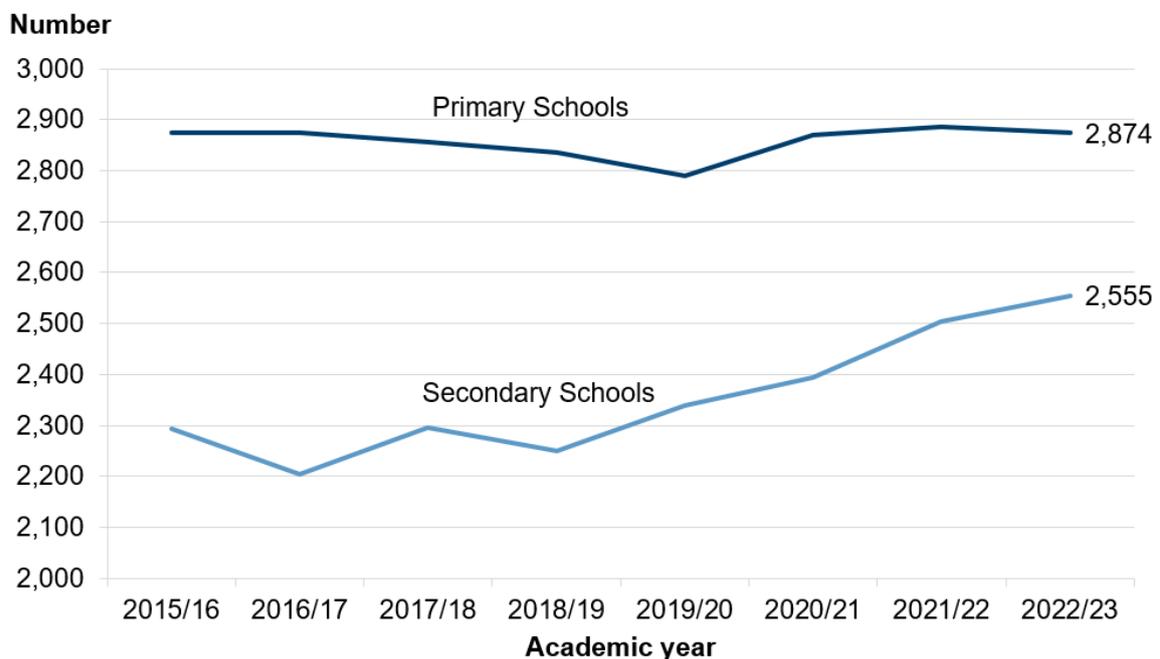
services – such as social care, childcare or summer holiday play schemes. The aim is to create a favourable offer, with year-round employment at 37 hours a week, to appeal to those with the relevant language skills.

- We will appoint a Welsh Language Action Leader, to support the development of Welsh-medium provision for Additional Learning Needs and professional learning.

We continue to support teachers in English-medium schools, to develop their ability to use and teach Welsh through the sabbatical scheme. We have also funded a national officer role to work across the regional consortia to develop national professional learning programmes to support practitioners. This work is still in its infancy, but it brings together the wealth of expertise we have across Wales.

Since September 2022, education practitioners have been able to access free courses through the National Centre for Learning Welsh. In February 2023, funding was agreed for the Centre to appoint a national officer to work with the regional consortia, local authorities and sabbatical scheme providers, to provide a coherent programme for practitioners to learn Welsh.

**Chart 16: The number of teachers who are able to teach through the medium of Welsh**



Source: Pupil Level Annual School Census (PLASC)

## **The post-16 workforce**

During the 2022-23 financial year, we continued to fund Sgiliaith to give practical support regarding using Welsh and teaching bilingually to tutors at further education colleges and work-based learning providers. We have done this in order to improve the provision for students completing their education through the medium of Welsh or bilingually.

So that students can undertake more of their education bilingually, the National Centre for Learning Welsh runs the Work Welsh programme specifically for the further and higher education sectors, in order to develop the language skills of tutors and lecturers. During 2022-23, 762 employees followed the Learning course, with 7 universities and 12 further education colleges committing to the scheme. In addition, 310 employees followed the Self-Study course with the help of a tutor.

## **Educational resources**

By working with various public organisations and third sector organisations, the creative sector and publishers, a range of resources were made available digitally to support learners during the reporting year.

One of the resources highlighted during the year was Mwy o Stori'r Iaith published by Atebol in March 2023 following the award of a grant to Rondo. The digital resources coincided with the television series broadcast on S4C early this year, Stori'r Iaith.

Work has been ongoing to identify resources for learning about the history and contribution of Black, Asian and minority ethnic people in line with Professor Charlotte Williams' recommendations. The commissioned resources will be published throughout the 2023-24 financial year.

In conjunction with the Curriculum Division, a grant of over £800,000 has been awarded to the Welsh Books Council over a three-year period (2022-25) to create reading materials for learners aged 3-16 that offer insights into the culture, people and history of Wales as well as the wider world. The scheme will support the objectives of the 4 purposes of Curriculum for Wales, support the development of key empathy skills, contribute to emotional and mental well-being, and ignite learners' imagination and creativity.

Canolfan Bedwyr at Bangor University was awarded a grant to continue to maintain and add to the online Education Terminology dictionary (Y Termiadur Addysg). During the year, over 650 new terms were published and 250 queries relating to terms from various fields of education were answered.

To support GCSE, AS and A-level qualifications, over 17 new titles were published in 2022-23 through a grant awarded to the Welsh Joint Education Committee (WJEC) to provide Welsh language versions of textbooks and revision books.

We continue to work with the Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol to identify the need for bilingual digital resources for post-16 students in health and care, childcare, agriculture, and public services to be used in blended learning provision, along with resources to support apprenticeships.

Work to develop several Welsh language resources for learners with additional learning needs continued during the year in question. RNIB was awarded a grant to create braille, large print and audio resources.

In December 2022, GwE was awarded a grant of £272,000 to develop the Ein Llais Ni scheme. This scheme will build learners' self-confidence and well-being, developing them into confident bilingual communicators, and will experiment with strategies (including the use of digital tools) to promote oracy skills in Welsh.

On 3 March 2022, we announced our intention to establish a company limited by guarantee to provide strategic oversight of the provision of Welsh and bilingual resources to support the Curriculum for Wales and its qualifications, and to commission resources where necessary. Adnodd has been in place since 1 April 2023, and a further update will be shared in the next annual report.

## Theme 2: Increasing the use of Welsh

Above, we have provided details on one of the main targets of *Cymraeg 2050*, which is to increase the numbers able to speak Welsh. The second main target is to increase the use of our language. It is vitally important to remember this second target in light of the publication of the 2021 Census results in relation to the Welsh language, as census data cannot tell us anything about language use.

We believe that the Welsh language belongs to us all and we want everyone, no matter how much Welsh they have, to feel confident to use it every day. And we are creating opportunities for that daily use. To support this, the *Programme for Government* states that we want to “*Support an increase in Welsh-speaking spaces, including workplaces*” and the *Co-operation Agreement* states that we want to “*Promote the daily use of the Welsh language in more places.*” We detail our work in this area in this section.

### The current situation – how many people can speak Welsh?

We have set a target to increase the percentage of people aged three or over who speak Welsh daily and who are able to speak more than a few words of our language to at least 20% by 2050, in line with the increase in speakers. This target is also one of the national indicators set out in the [Well-being of Future Generations \(Wales\) Act 2015](#).

It is very difficult to measure language use. One way of doing this is by conducting occasional language use surveys. To that end, the most recent Welsh Language Use Survey was conducted in July 2019, but was affected by COVID-19. We provided details on the results of this survey in our last annual report.

Language use surveys (2013-15 and 2019-20) show that 10% of the population continues to speak Welsh daily and more than a few words. This therefore means that half of Welsh speakers use their Welsh every day.

In November 2022, a new analysis of the 2019-20 Welsh Language Use Survey was published which reports on the use of Welsh in the community, including language use within different groups and social situations.

Welsh speakers in the North-west, fluent Welsh speakers, those who speak the language every day and those who had started to speak the language at home as young children are those most likely to use Welsh within their social groups.

Around a third of Welsh speakers had attended a social event or activity held in Welsh during the previous 12 months, and an additional 23% had attended at least one event held in both Welsh and English.

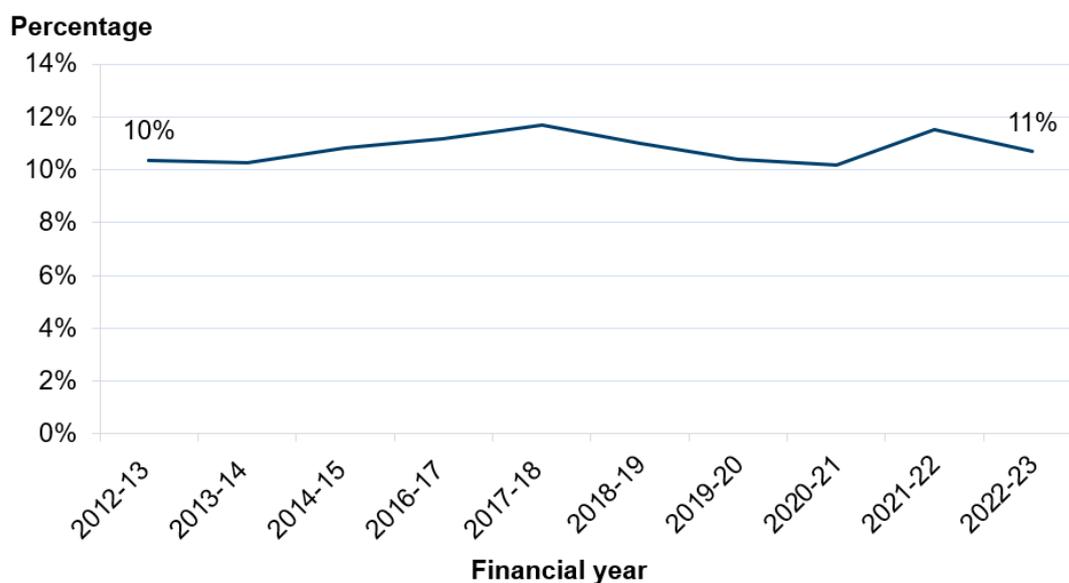
Almost 70% of Welsh-speaking children and young people say more of their friends are able to speak Welsh than are not able to do so. Children and young people able to speak Welsh are more likely to do so with their friends at school than they are to speak Welsh to friends outside of school.

Around two-thirds of children and young people able to speak Welsh say they have plenty of opportunities to speak Welsh outside of school. Four in ten children and young people able to speak Welsh had attended at least one event held in Welsh during the past 12 months, and a further 24% had attended at least one event held in both Welsh and English.

We have already published subject summaries about [use of Welsh in the home and in education](#), [social use of Welsh](#) and [use of Welsh in the workplace](#). We intend to publish the remaining results on the use of Welsh in relation to services in a separate statistical bulletin. We will combine data from the 2019-20 National Survey for Wales where relevant.

Although language use surveys are used to monitor progress towards this target, for more regular results, we also use the results of the National Survey for Wales for adults (aged 16 or over).

### **Chart 17: The percentage of people aged 16 years or over who speak Welsh daily and can speak more than just a few words of Welsh according to the National Survey for Wales**



Source: National Survey for Wales

According to the National Survey for Wales, the percentage of adults aged 16 or over who speak Welsh daily and can speak more than a few words of Welsh has remained fairly stable, very similar to the findings of the Welsh Language Use Survey 2019-20. The percentage was 11% in 2022-23.

Further information on this is provided in the section on the Social use of the Welsh language below.

## Language use at school – The Welsh Language Charter (*Siarter Iaith*)

The Welsh Language Charter and associated programmes (Cymraeg Campus, the Welsh Language Charter of secondary schools, and Cymraeg Bob Dydd) operate in our schools to increase language use among young people aged 3-18 years.

The Charter aims to create bilingual citizens for the future, who will be:

- Intuitive, natural, comfortable and confident Welsh speakers.
- Choose to use Welsh.
- Speak Welsh to each other whether they are from Welsh-speaking homes or not.
- Be confident using their Welsh and have a positive attitude towards our language.

Four different schemes are part of the Charter:

- Welsh Language Charter for Welsh-medium primary school pupils.
- Secondary Welsh Language Charter for Welsh-medium secondary school pupils.
- Cymraeg Campus for English-medium primary schools.
- Cymraeg Bob Dydd for English-medium secondary schools.

We fund the Urdd to support English-medium secondary schools with the Welsh Language Charter, and individual counties or regional education consortia provide the other three schemes.

During 2022-23, we worked to strengthen the link between the Welsh Language Charter and external partners by holding regular meetings to share updates and best practice. Working in collaboration with our partners, we began work on writing a new Welsh Language Charter Framework with the aim of publishing it during 2024-25. We worked in collaboration with Children in Wales to hold focus groups with young people in five Welsh-medium secondary schools to gather their views on Welsh-medium education.

Under the umbrella of the Welsh Language Charter, the third book was published in the Seren a Sbarc series, and karaoke videos have been produced which have proved very popular in schools across Wales. Radio Cymru 2 has also started to create new playlists every month called Miwsig y Siarter Iaith. The lists include an hour of contemporary Welsh music to accompany the Charter and are extremely popular.

## 6. The workforce

One of the objectives of *Cymraeg 2050* is to increase the use of Welsh in the workplace, as *“the workplace is central to our day-to-day lives ... [and] the opportunity to use, practise and learn the Welsh language.”*

## **Work Welsh (*Cymraeg Gwaith*)**

The National Centre for Learning Welsh's Work Welsh programme provides courses ranging from online self-study taster courses to intensive learning courses. As well as increasing the number of Welsh speakers and Welsh language use, Work Welsh also allows organisations to provide better Welsh language services to their users.

The reporting year was another successful year for the programme. 637 employers took advantage of Work Welsh courses in 2022-23, of which 147 were employers new to the scheme.

Work Welsh provides courses across a range of levels. 5,748 people followed self-study taster courses, 690 accessed self-study courses with tutor support, 589 followed courses with a tutor, and 45 learners took part in intensive learning courses during 2022-23.

In addition, the sectoral courses proved popular again during 2022-23, with 1,072 taking part in the courses for the further and higher education sectors, 333 in the courses for headteachers and teachers, 831 in the programme for local authorities, 401 in the health sector programme and 808 in the Camau programme that has been specifically developed for childcare workers.

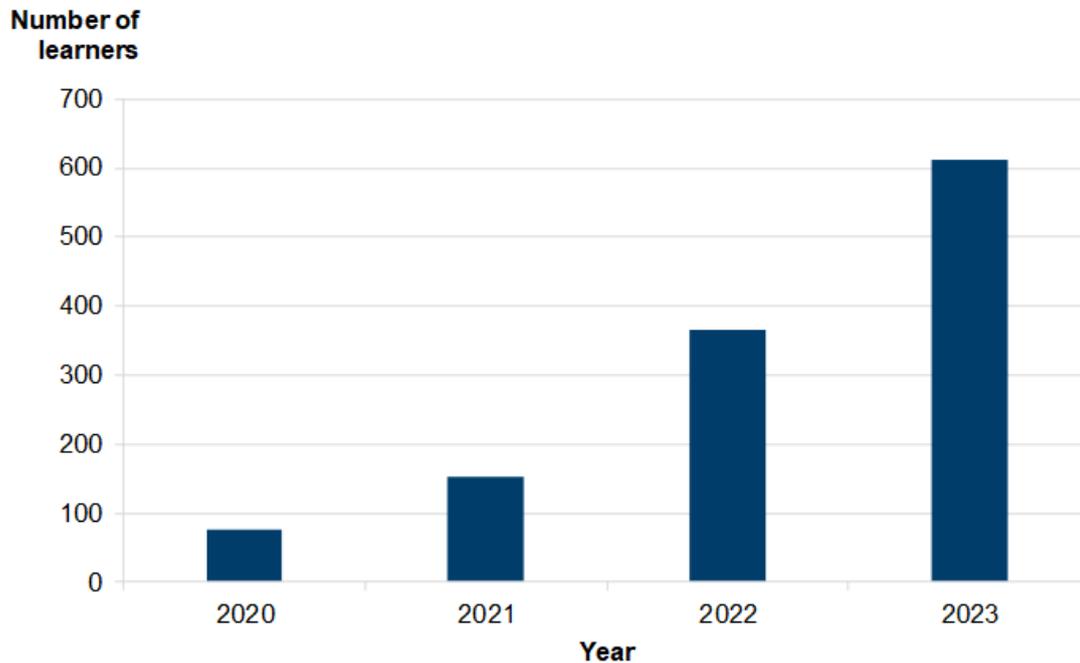
## **Welsh language use in the Welsh Government**

In our internal Welsh language use strategy within the Welsh Government – [\*Cymraeg. It belongs to us all\*](#) – we set a long-term aim to develop and promote the use of the language in the organisation. Our aim is that all staff working for the Welsh Government will be able to understand Welsh by 2050, meaning it would become a workplace where it is normal for Welsh and English to be used naturally and interchangeably.

In addition to setting a long-term goal for 2050 in the strategy, we are also setting a shorter-term objective for the period up to 2025. During the first five years, our objective is to see the Welsh Government become an exemplar organisation in terms of increasing internal use of the language in comparison to other organisations in the Welsh public sector.

Over the past three years since the strategy was published, we have focused on developing the four underpinning themes: learning, leadership, recruitment and technology. We have increased and expanded our Welsh learning programme, which has led to a more diverse and accessible offer and has attracted more learners to the programme. In May 2020, 76 learners were following a formal Welsh language learning programme in the Welsh Government. However, by May 2023 the number had risen to 613.

## Chart 18: Number of learners following a formal Welsh language learning programme in Welsh Government



Source: Welsh Government annual report on compliance with Welsh Language Standards

Our Welsh language learning offer to staff now includes 10 different options:

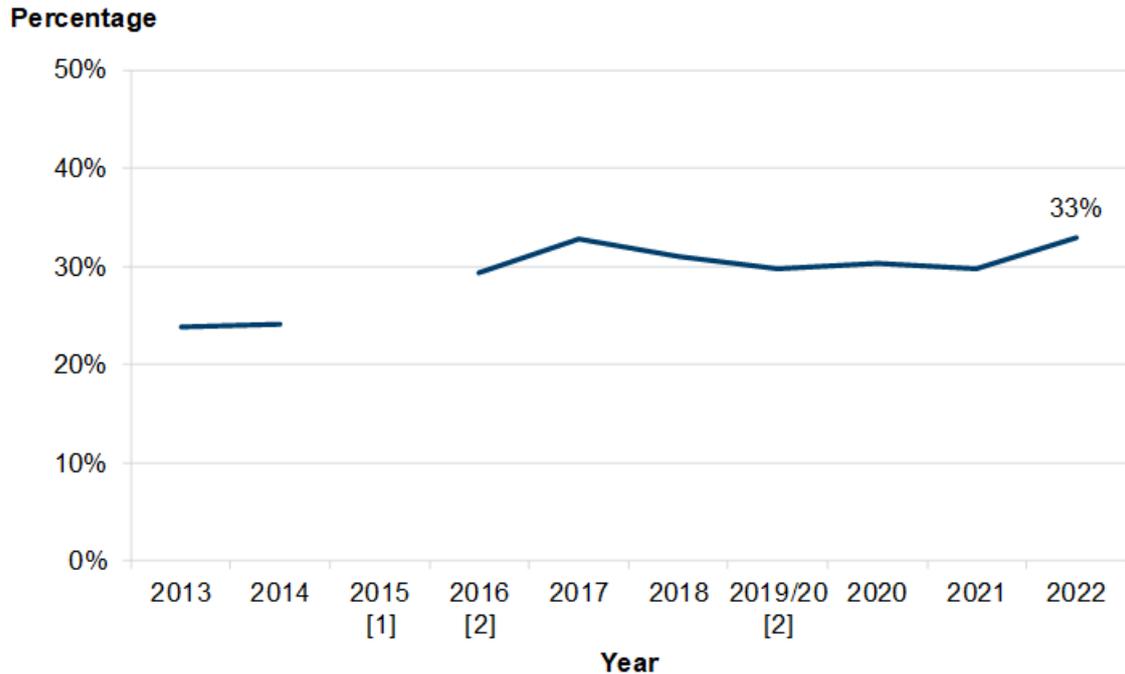
- Weekly classes
- Intensive block course
- Self-study online
- Learning 1:1
- Confidence-building
- Gloywi (Proficiency)
- SaySomethinginWelsh
- Welsh pronunciation
- Residential courses
- Welsh language course on social media

This year we also ran a pilot to introduce the Language Skills Certificate for the first time to 9 of our staff. All 9 achieved the qualification which is proof of their bilingual working skills. We will continue to work with the group over the coming months to ensure these skills are implemented in their day-to-day work. Support is also provided for our learners to practice their skills regularly through an extensive mentoring programme, Welsh language discussion networks on Microsoft Teams and informal tutor-run practice sessions.

We emphasise in our recruitment material that the Welsh language is an asset in Welsh Government, regardless of the role advertised. Programmes were launched this year to introduce Welsh early during induction to a cohort of apprentices who

joined the apprenticeship scheme for the first time. Our focus on our senior leaders also continues with an induction programme for new entrants into the Senior Civil Service. We held a leadership seminar for our senior civil servants with the Chief Constable of South Wales Police, who discussed his personal vision to develop the language within the force.

### Chart 19: The percentage of the Welsh Government's workforce who use Welsh to do their work



Source: People Survey (Welsh Government) and Civil Service People Surveys (UK Cabinet Office)

[Note 1] The survey was not carried out in 2015. In 2016, the "More English than Welsh" category was divided into three further categories which are "more English than Welsh but speaking Welsh daily, weekly, or less often than weekly".

[Note 2] The results shown for 2016 and 2019/20 have been taken from the People Survey conducted by the Welsh Government in January 2016 and March 2020 (taking into account the year from April 2019 to March 2020). The other results have been taken from the Civil Service People Surveys (usually conducted by the UK Cabinet Office in October). To a large extent, the same questionnaire was used for both surveys and was conducted in the same way. However, as the People Survey 2020 was conducted in March 2020, the response rate was slightly lower than in previous years. This is likely to be due to COVID-19.

Chart 19 data above shows that 33% of the Welsh Government workforce use the Welsh language to do their jobs – an increase of 3 percentage points on last year. By achieving our goal of all staff working for the Welsh Government being able to understand Welsh by 2050, we will enable our staff to work in Welsh on a day-to-day basis, and there will be a significant increase in language use as a result.

## Leading in a Bilingual Country

This is a 'language in leadership' programme. Attendees reflect on their views and experiences of bilingualism. The programme addresses areas such as:

- Unconscious bias
- Language and power
- Language and culture
- Leadership behaviours
- Vision and values

It is a joint programme between a company of external experts, the Cymraeg 2050 Division and Academi Wales. This year, we have been preparing to invite a third cohort of leaders to attend the programme and are looking to develop it over the next 5 years.

## 7. Services

### Welsh Language Standards Regulations

In the *Co-operation Agreement*, we undertake to:

*Work with the Welsh Language Commissioner to reduce obstacles in setting Welsh Language Standards; streamline the process for implementing standards, without weakening their impact; implement standards on public transport, regulators in the health sector, newly established public bodies currently outside the standards regime and water companies; and to begin work on implementing standards on housing associations, which will be completed in the Senedd term. We are committed to the full implementation of the Welsh Language (Wales) Measure 2011 and will develop a list to prioritise the further rollout of standards under its schedules beyond the term of this agreement.*

Preparation of standards regulations continued during 2022-23. Regulations to make standards applicable to Health Regulators were approved by the Senedd in July 2022. Those Regulations came into force on 31 October 2022 and the bodies now comply with the standards under the supervision of the Welsh Language Commissioner.

A public consultation on draft standards regulations to make standards applicable to water companies was held between February and April 2023. Those regulations were approved by the Senedd on 19 September 2023 and will come into force on 31 October, enabling the Welsh Language Commissioner to begin the process of imposing standards on water companies.

The next step is to set about preparing standards for public transport bodies, public bodies that remain outside the standards regime, and housing associations, as part of the *Co-operation Agreement*.

## **Helo Blod**

Helo Blod helps individuals, businesses, charities and third sector organisations to use more Welsh by offering free translations up to 500 words a month, as well as a Welsh text-checking service. It also answers enquiries of all kinds from businesses about the Welsh language, provides Working Welsh goods and signposts to sources of support in relevant organisations. Helo Blod is available by phone, via the website, e-mail, and social media.

During 2022-23, the Helo Blod service:

- Received 3,548 requests for support and translation – 1,692 from businesses, 1,406 from charities and 450 from individuals.
- Translated 513,001 words from English to Welsh and checked 23,585 Welsh words.
- Crossed the milestone of translating 1 million words from English to Welsh since the service's inception.
- Created 1,059 accounts for the service during the period: 491 for businesses, 252 for charities and 317 for individuals.
- Created 139 accounts for businesses and charities outside Wales.
- Cardiff was the area with the largest number of new accounts created for businesses and charities (96), with Gwynedd in second place (72) and Carmarthenshire third (56).
- The creative culture sector had the highest number of businesses creating accounts (92), with 'miscellaneous' in second place (46), and tourism (39), healthcare and complementary therapy (37), and retail (35) also high.

## ***More than just words 2022-2027***

*More than just words* is a strategic framework for strengthening Welsh language services in health and care. Its aim is to ensure that health and care organisations recognise language as an intrinsic part of care, and that people who need services through the medium of Welsh are offered them proactively.

The new [2022-27 More than just words](#) plan was published in August 2022. The plan was developed by a task and finish group following an independent evaluation of the previous *More than just words* plan.

The plan includes a number of actions under four themes:

- Culture and leadership
- Welsh language planning and policies
- Supporting and developing the Welsh language skills of the workforce
- Sharing best practice

The plan is set in the context that the Welsh language belongs to us all and should be incorporated into health and social care services across Wales so that

individuals receive care that meets their language needs without having to ask for it.

One of the highlights of the first few months of the implementation of *More than just words* was the introduction of a compulsory language awareness training course for all NHS staff in Wales in autumn 2022.

During the reporting year, work was also initiated to establish an Advisory Board for *More than just words* to monitor and scrutinise progress against the action plan. The Advisory Board has been in place since summer 2023 and will support the development and delivery of the *More than just words* plan by offering sound advice and challenge, ensuring that the interests of stakeholders are considered in a balanced way, at a strategic whole programme level. It will also prepare an annual report for the Minister for Health and Social Services on progress and make recommendations where further progress is needed.

## **8. Social use of Welsh**

Increasing social use of the Welsh language is essential to enable us to reach our target of doubling daily use of our language. As Welsh is not a majority language throughout Wales, plans must be made to create, protect and extend opportunities and spaces where we can use Welsh together.

One type of Welsh language monolingual space where we have increased our engagement is co-operative organisations. These also, of course, offer employment opportunities and a contribution to the economy and sometimes offer an important social function, all in Welsh. During the reporting period, and following discussions with Social Business Wales, and Cwmpas (formerly the Wales Co-operative Centre), we have established the *Perthyn* project to support communities in creating new co-operatives. We are implementing this as part of our *Welsh Language Communities Housing Plan*. There are two elements to the *Perthyn* project. The first is to offer expert advice and support to community initiatives to convert ideas into social initiatives or community-led housing co-operatives. During the period, 10 groups were supported to establish a co-operative.

The second element is a small grant fund worth £250,000 to help new or existing co-operatives develop new schemes. This fund offers financial support of up to £12,500 for the costs of setting up or conducting further research in order to develop the business plan.

### **Grants**

During 2022-23, 42 organisations were allocated grants under the Grant to Promote and Facilitate the Use of Welsh to increase the use of our language at community level and nationally. The aim of this funding is to enable organisations to instigate, develop and sustain a wide range of activities, including activities for children and young people, to create a bridge between formal education and using the Welsh language naturally in social situations.

The work of organisations such as the Urdd, the Young Farmers' Clubs, the mentrau iaith (Welsh language initiatives) and the National Eisteddfod all offer opportunities for young people aged 11-25 to use Welsh outside school. Here are some examples:

- The network of 21 mentrau iaith implements a wide range of activities across our communities, based on evidence of the need identified in local language-profiling work. During the reporting year, many of the mentrau iaith continued to resume a number of in-person activities in the community after COVID-19.
- Tafwyl, Menter Caerdydd's Welsh language festival, was held at the castle during the reporting year. It was great to see the festival attracting thousands during the weekend and that their fringe events also continue to go from strength to strength.
- Grants were allocated to 56 local newspapers during 2022-23. This grant is administered by Mentrau Iaith Cymru on behalf of the Welsh Government. Emphasis was placed during the year on attracting new volunteers to help the network of local newspapers.
- Merched y Wawr held 4,526 in-person events with 50,000 attending.

Work on *the Review of the Grant to Promote and Facilitate the Use of Welsh* continued during the period. We will use the final report, published in June 2023, to create a new grant scheme to increase the use of Welsh.

### **The Urdd Eisteddfod**

While Eisteddfod T, the Urdd's virtual eisteddfod was a huge success, it was wonderful to see the Urdd Eisteddfod back in festival form with a 'real' field in 2022. Denbighshire and the area successfully staged a successful Eisteddfod, and as a result of a commitment in our *Programme for Government*, additional one-off funding was provided for the Urdd to offer everyone free admission to the Eisteddfod. This was done to celebrate the organisation's centenary to demonstrate Wales' appreciation for the Urdd's work over the past century, particularly during the challenging times of the pandemic.

During the reporting year, we worked closely with the Urdd to prepare for the 2023 Carmarthenshire Eisteddfod. We will report on the success of that Eisteddfod in the next annual report.

During the Eisteddfod, the Minister for Education and Welsh Language announced an investment of £200,000 a year over a five-year period to re-establish the Urdd Youth Theatre. It will give 14-19 year olds the opportunity to enjoy and expand their arts experiences through the medium of Welsh on stage and backstage.

### **Urdd Sports**

During the reporting year, the Urdd received funding from Sport Wales as well as a contribution as part of their core *Cymraeg 2050* grant. As the year progressed, the Urdd's sporting work went from strength to strength as they recovered from the pandemic period.

The budget continues to be used to develop opportunities for young people across Wales to participate in sport through the medium of Welsh. The scheme offers extensive opportunities for the foundation phase across a range of sports including football, rugby, netball, gymnastics and multi-skills.

The Urdd also played a role at the 2022 FIFA Men's Football World Cup in Qatar to promote our language and culture abroad.

### **The National Eisteddfod**

Although Eisteddfod AmGen was a huge success during the pandemic, it was wonderful to see the National Eisteddfod return to a 'real' field in Tregaron, Ceredigion in August 2022. Additional funding was provided for the National Eisteddfod to offer free entry to low-income families in 2022.

The staging of an Eisteddfod is no mean feat – volunteers across Wales and those who welcome the Eisteddfod to their local area each year are at the heart of it all. We therefore continue to work with the Eisteddfod to ensure that the impact of the festival on the Welsh language and communities begins immediately after the Eisteddfod announces its new venues. The Eisteddfod has a community officer working intensively within the community, and we look forward to seeing the fruits of her work and the community come to life as the 2024 Rhondda Cynon Taf National Eisteddfod approaches.

We continue to support the Eisteddfod as they recover from the challenging times of COVID-19. For the financial year in question, we have increased the core National Eisteddfod grant to £1m. The support has made the Eisteddfod more accessible and sustainable.

### **New Welsh speakers**

The National Centre for Learning Welsh continues to work with partners in the community to provide opportunities for new Welsh speakers to use their skills in communities, through the Cefnogi Dysgwyr (Supporting Learners) scheme.

The Centre co-ordinates a Siarad scheme in order to offer support to learners to use their Welsh with more confident speakers in an informal context. The aim of the scheme is to build learners' confidence by providing opportunities for informal conversations. The Siarad scheme is growing annually, with over 371 pairs established by the end of March 2023.

The Centre also operates a Mwynhau'r Gymraeg scheme in partnership with the Welsh language initiatives to ensure that new speakers are included in activities.

### **Welsh Language Music Day (*Dydd Miwsig Cymru*)**

Welsh Language Music Day / Dydd Miwsig Cymru was held for the eighth time on 10 February 2023. Since the outset, the main aim has been to introduce Welsh language music to a new audience, but this has now developed to recognise the

importance of encouraging community events where people can use their Welsh. Following the pandemic, it is encouraging that so many live events have been held as part of the celebrations in 2023. Over 30 Welsh language events were held across Wales, from gigs in community pubs to large gigs in our cities. This is the largest number of events since the campaign began.

As part of the 2023 Welsh Language Music Day, we also launched Sound of Miwsig – Yr artistiaid sydd am wneud tonnau yn 2023 which is the first annual survey of artists making waves in Welsh language music in 2023. More than 80 industry experts voted and the results were announced between 5 and 9 February. Lloyd, Dom James and DON were crowned the inaugural winners of Sound of Miwsig 2023.

The campaign is also an opportunity to collaborate with major companies and this year saw support from Welsh Water, EE, Joe's Ice Cream and the Co-op as well as local businesses over social media and by hosting events at various businesses.

The campaign again attracted attention in the Welsh and UK press, with items on BBC News, BBC 6 Music, BBC Radio 4, Radio 5 Live Drive, Radio X, Nation.cymru, ITV Wales News, Sky News and others.

Following the success of the Llwyfan scheme in 2021, Welsh Government awarded a grant to an external company for the second time during the reporting period to continue with work to help young people to take an interest in the Welsh language media and to develop recording, editing and publishing skills in relation to podcasts and radio programmes.

The project combines these elements on a platform serving 7-11 year olds, focusing in the short term on Welsh Language Music Day and the requirements of the Welsh Language Charter. The aim of the project is to strengthen and reinforce young people's Welsh verbal and written skills as they learn about multi-media skills. It will also connect with pupils' homes by providing a wide range of extra-curricular events that appeal to the whole family, for example a family quiz to extend the language to our young people's homes across the country.

## **Theme 3: Creating favourable conditions – infrastructure and context**

This theme supports the actions outlined in themes one and two above, to increase the number of Welsh speakers and the use of Welsh. This will be achieved by creating favourable conditions and fostering an environment in which our language and its speakers can flourish.

Although we have targets for increasing the number of Welsh speakers and the number using the language, neither one nor the other can be achieved without suitable infrastructure.

### **9. Community and economy**

In October 2022, the Minister for Economy announced the Government's intention to invest £11m over a three-year period in the ARFOR programme. This funding is intended to build on the evaluation of the previous ARFOR programme with the aim of achieving economic prosperity in the Welsh heartlands. The ARFOR Programme is part of the *Co-operation Agreement* with Plaid Cymru and operates within the local authority boundaries of Ceredigion, Gwynedd, Carmarthenshire and Anglesey.

The new programme includes four strategic objectives:

- Create opportunities for young people and families (≤ aged 35) to stay in or return to their indigenous communities – supporting them to succeed locally by engaging in enterprise or developing a career and ensuring a livelihood that fulfils their aspirations.
- Create enterprising communities within the Welsh-speaking areas – by supporting commercial and community enterprises that aim to preserve and increase local wealth while taking advantage of the identity and unique qualities of their areas.
- Maximize the benefit of collaborative activity– by establishing a mindset of learning by doing and continuous improvement, learning from an activity within individual areas and then extending it, but tailoring it to local circumstances.
- Strengthen the identity of communities with a high density of Welsh speakers – by supporting the use and visibility of the Welsh language, encouraging a sense of place and local loyalty, together with increasing awareness of what is common across the region.

Central to the programme will be the concept of continuously learning lessons, sharing good practice to broaden our understanding of the relationship between the economy and the Welsh language, while improving understanding of the economic interventions that can make a difference to the prosperity of the Welsh language and contribute to the objectives of *Cymraeg 2050*.

## **Agriculture**

The Agriculture (Wales) Bill was introduced to the Senedd in September 2022. It establishes Sustainable Land Management (SLM) as the framework for the future support and regulation of agriculture in Wales. The framework consists of four SLM objectives which celebrate the key contributions the agricultural sector makes to Wales, not only do these cover the sustainable production of food but also recognises the central role farmers play in the environmental and cultural health of Wales.

Welsh Ministers will have a duty to contribute to the achievement of the SLM objectives and the fourth SLM objective includes “*sustaining the Welsh language and promoting and facilitating its use*” which recognises the importance of the Welsh language in our agricultural sector. In addition, pursuant to the provision of support within the Bill, one of the listed purposes enables for the provision of support to the sector for the purpose of '*sustaining the Welsh language and promoting and facilitating its use*', thereby supporting actions the sector may take towards achieving this purpose.

The Bill also includes a duty to set indicators and targets to measure progress towards achieving the SLM objectives, as well as to publish regular impact reports detailing the way in which, and the extent to which, the support has achieved the purposes for which it was provided and how it has contributed to achieving the SLM objectives. The Agriculture (Wales) Act received Royal Assent on 17/08/23.

The Sustainable Farming Scheme (SFS) outline was published in July 2022. The SFS will be the main support to farmers in Wales from 2025. We conducted a period of co-design, which we have responded to and published in July 2023. We are now embarking on our final consultation before the end of this year and are continuing to engage with the farming community as a critical stakeholder. Leading up to 2025, domestically funded agricultural schemes were offered to farmers to support both the environmental and financial performance of farm businesses. This support will continue up to the introduction of the SFS.

## **Welsh Language Communities Housing Plan**

Supporting the vitality of geographical communities with high densities of Welsh speakers is one of the strategic priorities of *Cymraeg 2050*. These Welsh-speaking communities face numerous social, economic and linguistic challenges. They are most often rural in nature and depend mainly on economies within the public sector, agriculture and tourism, where there are strong tendencies of outward and inward migration.

In recent years, some of these communities have seen a high demand for properties to be used as second homes. In areas where the density of second homes is high, there have been concerns about issues surrounding affordability and the future of the Welsh language as a thriving community language.

As part of the *Programme for Government's* commitment, the *Welsh Language Communities Housing Plan* was published by the Minister for Education and Welsh Language in October 2022.

The plan includes a range of interventions that seek to address economic, housing, community development and language planning issues. The aim is to empower communities to take responsibility and identify their own solutions to issues that threaten the sustainability of the Welsh language as a living community language.

The interventions of the *Welsh Language Communities Housing Plan* include:

- Encouragement to empower communities to establish community-led co-operatives and housing schemes. We want to support communities to ensure that vital services are safeguarded. As a result, since April 2022, we have worked in partnership with Cwmpas to establish the Perthyn scheme, which offers a specialist service for community groups to develop ideas and set up new co-operatives. This service offers added value to the mainstream support already provided by Cwmpas to create social enterprises and the Communities Creating Homes scheme.
- Establishing a Steering Group for key stakeholders involved in the open housing market.
- Establishing a Fair Opportunities scheme for local people, working closely with property providers to raise awareness of what action they can take to support their local communities.
- Establishing a network of voluntary Cultural Ambassadors to promote and raise awareness of our culture, heritage and the Welsh language on a community level and amongst newcomers.
- We will expand the role of the Economy and Welsh Language Roundtable to include housing issues.
- We will further develop and investigate the issues associated with safeguarding Welsh place names. Further information on this is provided in the section on place names below.

### **Commission for Welsh-speaking Communities**

At the National Eisteddfod of Wales, Ceredigion in August 2022, the Minister for Education and Welsh Language launched the Commission for Welsh-speaking Communities. The aim of the Commission is to make public policy recommendations in order to strengthen Welsh-speaking communities. The Commission is chaired by Dr Simon Brooks and consists of ten members representing important policy areas, including the economy, housing, education, local government, community regeneration, technology and language planning.

During the year, the Commission has met to discuss specific policy areas in detail. A Call for Evidence was issued in November 2022 to give the public an opportunity to present evidence to the Commission. Following consideration of evidence, the Commission published a Position Paper at the Urdd Eisteddfod 2023 summarising its initial findings in the field. The summer has been an opportunity for the Commission to listen to responses and comments regarding

the Position Paper, and the Commission will now prepare its final recommendations which are to be published by August 2024.

### **Affordability, second homes and the Welsh language**

The *Programme for Government* and the *Co-operation Agreement* include a number of commitments relating to affordability, second homes and the Welsh language, for example:

- Construction of 20,000 new low carbon social housing for rent.
- Publication of a White Paper to set out proposals for the right to adequate homes, including fair rents and new ways of ensuring that homes are affordable for people on local incomes.
- Taking forward measures to set a cap on the number of second homes, bringing more homes into common ownership and licensing holiday accommodation.
- Supporting co-operative housing, community-led initiatives, and community land trusts.
- Develop further effective tax, planning and housing measures to ensure the interests of local people are protected.
- Investigate the feasibility of introducing local authority mortgages.

Significant cross-cutting progress has been made, in line with the Welsh Government's three-pronged approach to second homes.

We've extended powers for local authorities to charge a discretionary premium rate of council tax on second homes and long-term empty properties – from 1 April 2023, the maximum that local authorities can choose to apply rose from 100% to 300%.

We've changed the rules around short-term holiday accommodation – which means that to be liable for non-domestic rates (rather than council tax), short-term holiday lets operators must be available to let for at least 252 days in any 12-month period, and actually let for a minimum of 182 days within that period. This will ensure that owners and their guests make a fair contribution to host communities. These new rules also came into effect on 1 April 2023.

We have also introduced changes to the planning system. Regulations were introduced and came into force from October 2022; these established three new planning use classes: primary residence, secondary home and short-term holiday accommodation. Local planning authorities, where they have evidence and put in place an Article 4 Direction, can now require property owners to seek planning permission in order to change use between these classes. We have also introduced changes to national planning policy which will allow local authorities to better manage the number of second homes and short-term holiday lets in local communities.

From December 2021 to March 2022, we [consulted](#) on making changes to land transaction tax. We published the results of the consultation on 15 July 2022.

There are two sets of rates for residential properties – the main rates and the higher rates. The higher rates are charged on when following the purchase, the buyer will have more than one residential property, including second homes and are 4 percentage points higher than the main rates.

Following the consultation, we are now working on the next steps including developing a national framework in which local authorities can request increased land transaction tax rates for second homes and holiday lets to be applied in their local area.

### **Affordability and second homes pilot**

We have established a pilot in [Dwyfor](#) to test a number of interventions and to assess their effectiveness in terms of managing second homes and their effect on affordability. We are working closely with partners such as Cyngor Gwynedd, Eryri National Park, Grŵp Cynefin and Adra Housing Associations. Operational, strategic and marketing groups have been established. We have tailored and are trialling new rules in the pilot for our HomeBuy Shared Equity scheme and have already seen a number of completions in the area.

We have commissioned an independent evaluation of the pilot in Dwyfor. The evaluation findings will be shared on an ongoing basis until the final report is received in 2026 and will consider the effectiveness of the interventions. This will facilitate the work of learning lessons and sharing good practice with other areas facing similar challenges.

### **The Welsh language and equality**

The Government has several cross-government and long-term social justice policies. Two of those documents are the *Anti-racist Wales Action Plan* published in June 2022, and the *LGBTQ+ Equality Plan*. The documents outline the Government's actions and policies for creating an inclusive, anti-racist and LGBTQ+ friendly nation by 2030.

*Cymraeg 2050* is embedded in the fabric of these equality schemes and they are intended to co-exist and reinforce each other. Much of our work in these areas has been discussed throughout this report.

## **10. Culture and media**

All of our sponsored bodies in the culture and sport sector are committed to supporting our target to increase language use and reach a million Welsh speakers by 2050. Encouraging and supporting members of staff to learn and use the Welsh language is embedded in the operational culture of our sponsored bodies, and they have established good links with the National Centre for Learning Welsh.

We want to see and hear the Welsh language more widely used in popular culture in all its arts media and in literature, theatre, film and television. The use of Welsh by role models such as sportsmen, musicians, actors, and other prominent figures

and organisations is a means of raising the status of the Welsh language as a living language.

The importance of our relationship with these organisations and partners is key to our heritage and well-being.

## **Culture**

### **The Cymru Wales brand**

Again this year, we have continued to support businesses to reflect the values of the brand in their work. We also used the Welsh language in major campaigns to promote Wales across the world. In particular, this was done through the World Cup campaign, which was a partnership with a range of stakeholders including the Urdd, Wales Arts International and the Football Association of Wales, and gave the Welsh language an international platform in the form of music, performances and marketing, as well as the St David's Day campaign, which asked everyone around the world to do the little things.

The Welsh language is a central part of the Cymru Wales brand and has been used extensively again this year to promote Wales and attract tourism and investments. The language inspires core elements of the brand, for example the font.

In the tourism sector, this includes encouraging businesses to ensure a strong sense of place in their provision, and the use of the Welsh language is central to this. The language has also been used in one of our main tourism campaigns – Addo – to encourage people to behave responsibly while visiting Wales. Addo asks visitors and residents to make a pledge to Wales, which includes asking people to respect and celebrate our unique language and culture.

We are also this year in the midst of a Llwybrau campaign – which encourages people to take different pathways on their journey in Wales, whether in relation to food, art or adventure. The word Llwybrau is prominent in all our marketing material, and the main campaign logo sent to stakeholders in the tourism sector for use in their own campaigns leads with the Welsh word.

We have also this year established partnerships with Welsh record labels to allow us to use Welsh language music in some of the videos we create for our social channels, to give Welsh language music a wider platform. In fact, we are focusing on introducing even more Welsh in general on our social channels.

We will continue to do more to showcase the Welsh language in our campaigns over the coming years, including on social media and in our marketing campaigns.

### **Sponsorship activity**

We continue to emphasise and promote the importance of the wealth of Welsh-medium culture and indeed the importance of hearing Welsh in our sponsorship activity. We continue with the aim of ensuring that the use of the Welsh language

increases – both at cultural events and in the everyday work of our cultural institutions.

Through our sponsorship activity, we are collaborating to increase the visibility of the Welsh language in cultural activities of all kinds, including exploring the interrelationship between language and culture in order to develop events, products and activities that celebrate and raise awareness of our unique Welsh culture.

## **Heritage**

### **Amgueddfa Cymru – Museum Wales**

The Welsh language is an intrinsic part of the heritage and culture of Wales. Amgueddfa Cymru – Museum Wales has a key role in developing people's knowledge and understanding of the history of the Welsh language and Welsh culture.

In 2022-23, Amgueddfa Cymru's new brand was launched. The status and prominence of the Welsh language has been an integral part of this work from the outset. A new wave of national organisations all using the Welsh language to promote 'Brand Cymru Wales' across the world, puts the Welsh language front and centre, and promotes the use of the plurilingual approach in their brand voice. Working with partners across Wales, both Welsh language and Welsh cultural experiences and opportunities were created for visitors to access, learn and use the Welsh language.

Collaborations on a number of external programmes were supported during this period. These included:

- A variety of digital workshops as part of the Children's Festival of Welsh History included face to face and digital activities for children and young people across Wales to use their Welsh as part of Summer of Fun, with over 16,000 children and young people participating in partnership with the Federation of Welsh Museums and Art Galleries.
- The Reframing Picton exhibition opened at National Museum Cardiff in August 2022 as a community-led project between the Amgueddfa Cymru Producers and the Sub-Saharan Advisory Panel's (SSAP) Youth Leadership Network. As part of the exhibition, work on updating Welsh language terminology and de-colonising the national collection was further developed with the aim of creating a modern and equitable Welsh language terminology for future generations to use.
- During September 2022, the Voices of the Red Wall exhibition was launched in collaboration with the Football Association of Wales. This exhibition at St Fagan's National Museum of History was a platform for Welsh football fans, celebrating the Welsh language's place on the international stage.
- Amgueddfa Cymru produced and launched the BBC 100 in Wales major exhibition at National Museum Cardiff in December 2022. The exhibition celebrated the BBC's history in Wales including the relationship between

broadcasting and the Welsh language – from the early campaigning for Welsh representation to today's innovations in Welsh and bilingual content.

The National Museum has also taken strides with innovative hybrid learning programmes for schools and families across Wales during 2022-23. With a combination of bilingual face to face and digital sessions being offered in line with the new Curriculum for Wales guidance, these sessions seek to promote familiarity of words and phrases and the normalization of the Welsh language on a daily use level. Through adopting a plurilingual approach when developing these sessions, and by using Welsh language phrases and content in English-medium workshops, it has encouraged the social use of Welsh amongst visitors and staff, and has proved very popular.

Learning resources for pre-school age, the key stages and adults have been published, and all digital education resources continue to be published bilingually including e-books on Hwb, the digital platform for learning and teaching in Wales. During 2022-23, 60% of Museum e-books and 40% of Apple books were downloaded in Welsh.

A Skills Development Placement through the medium of Welsh was created, enabling people to gain work experience and develop their Welsh language skills at the same time. Specific Welsh language placements for people with learning disabilities were introduced at the National Slate Museum and St Fagans National History Museum, providing more tailored opportunities for Welsh speakers and learners at every level.

Programmes for volunteers attracted a high number of volunteers with Welsh language skills. Between April 2022 and March 2023, Amgueddfa Cymru attracted their highest ever percentage of Welsh learners, at 18% – with 46% of the volunteers registered noting that they had some level of Welsh language ability, with 8% being fluent.

Additional funding secured by the Museum enabled the production of a resource for families learning Welsh at the National Roman Legion Museum, Caerleon. The resource became available on their website alongside the project duration in 2022-23.

The Museum Sleepover series of events continues to attract attention, and received high commendation in the Welsh language category at the Cardiff Life Awards. The Museum Sleepover: At Home project secured a Kids in Museums award, showing that families in Wales and beyond took part in a series of bilingual events and welcomed the opportunity to use their Welsh language skills in an innovative way.

### **Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales**

The Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales (the Commission) offers a range of services to individuals, groups and organisations interested in the history and built heritage of Wales. The Commission maintains, for example, the [List of Historic Place Names of Wales](#) on behalf of Welsh

Ministers, and in July 2022 [a five-year report](#) on the List was published – the culmination of the work of a Task and Finish group chaired by Dylan Foster-Evans to consider the effectiveness of this statutory List.

Since 1908, the National Monuments Record of Wales (NMRW) has investigated and recorded the archaeological and built heritage of Wales. As the current collection of names grows, the aim of integrating these into our public-facing online database, Coflein, is ongoing.

To date, a total of 937 named collections have been translated for inclusion in the archives, a number which is growing by the month as survey and investigation teams feed in material from their work as well as deposits from a wide range of heritage organisations and members of the public.

In order to further promote the importance of the cultural and historical significance of this work and the List of Historic Place Names more widely, a discussion on place names in the Dyfi Valley was broadcast on Radio Cymru, an article on the Pendinas Hillfort project was published in Golwg, and also on twentieth-century schools in Wales, 'O'r Hen i'r Newydd: Treftadaeth dan Fygythiad' ('From the Old to the New: Heritage under Threat), for November 2022's edition of Barn.

During the Tregaron National Eisteddfod, Dr James January-McCann, the Commission's Place Names Officer spoke at Pabell y Cymdeithasau on 'Pum Mlynedd o'r Rhestr Enwau Lleoedd Hanesyddol' ('Five Years of the List of Historic Place Names') and took part in a panel discussion organised by Senedd Cymru on the history, evolution and cultural relevance of Welsh place names.

The Royal Commission has specific expertise in the survey, interpretation and reconstruction of historic buildings and archaeological sites. As part of their twentieth-century schools programme, a photographic survey of Ysgol Bro Preseli, Pembrokeshire (originally Crymych Secondary Modern School) was carried out. This Welsh-medium school was built in the 1950s to the designs of Pembrokeshire County Architect Lt. Col. Walter Barrett. The survey ensures that a record of the school will be kept in the National Monuments Record of Wales for future generations to remember.

Engaging with young people and Welsh learners of all ages and abilities at the National Eisteddfod via activity workshops run in partnership with Cadw, the Strata Florida Trust, Dyfed Archaeological Trust and the National Lottery Heritage Fund provided a fun learning environment to over 4,000 visitors during the week.

On 7 December, to celebrate Diwrnod Hawliau'r Gymraeg / Welsh Language Rights Day, an infographic about the Welsh language services the public could expect to receive from NCMW was promoted.

The introduction of C20 Cymru (the C20 Society in Wales) to the National C20 Society campaigning for twentieth-century architecture and design, ensures a unique Welsh perspective and provides information about notable buildings and potential casework across Wales. With many important buildings (such as the BBC Broadcasting House Llandaff) already lost and few with statutory protection,

by introducing Welsh awareness (of both language and culture) to the National C20 Society on Welsh matters, promotion of its programme of online and in-person events ensures our culture and identity is effectively communicated bilingually to Wales and a wider audience.

### **The National Library of Wales**

The Library's exhibitions offer information that attracts interest in the Welsh language and its history by providing an introduction to Welsh history, society and culture. This opens the door to a world of culture suitable for learners and Welsh speakers.

In their exhibitions, the Library presents information about the Welsh language and its culture. The Record exhibition presented the history of contemporary Welsh language music in an area where visitors may not be familiar with the history. To coincide with the exhibition, a playlist of Welsh language songs was provided on Spotify.

A presentation was given to the Digital Communities Wales Welsh Bodies Network, which includes national organisations, community initiatives and organisations working through the Welsh language.

Over the next two years, the focus of the work will be to further integrate the language into the work of the National Library. By offering opportunities to engage through the medium of Welsh in at least 10 centres across Wales, participants can be involved in researching, list maintenance, selection, rights checking, editing and publishing. One such project already completed was in partnership with Menter Dinefwr at Canolfan Hengwrt in Llandeilo where volunteers researched and selected items for a film and sound exhibition at the centre.

The Library's volunteering scheme offers tasks to be achieved in Welsh, including those suitable for learners. Work is underway to transfer Meredydd Evans and Phyllis Kinney's Welsh folk songs repository from an index card system to an electronic database, which offers a great opportunity for learners to gain a greater understanding of contemporary culture in relation to Wales and the Welsh language.

The scheme is being promoted as one where people can come and practise and improve their language skills. The benefit of the scheme is that Library volunteers have the opportunity to chat informally over a coffee on a daily basis, and to be part of more structured chat sessions specifically for learners every two weeks.

One of the central elements of Wales' Broadcast Archive's engagement work is Clip Cymraeg. Through this element, training and information sessions are held for those working with Welsh learners, a programme of events for learners, and a suite of clips is created for those learning Welsh. This is a joint project with the National Centre for Learning Welsh.

All Library Education Service activities are available in Welsh, bilingually, or in English with some Welsh content. When schools request provision through the

medium of English, staff members will ensure that they introduce Welsh terms, and that the language is heard throughout the session.

All of the Library's printed learning resources are provided in both Welsh and English, bound back-to-back in accordance with the Welsh Language Commissioner's Bilingual Design Guidelines. The Library's digital learning resources are also available in both languages on the Hwb education platform.

The Library Education Service also offers learning sessions that present the historical, social and cultural context of the Welsh language. These are specifically targeted at people of all ages learning the language. The Library is part of Kids in Museums Takeover Day where school pupils have the opportunity to work alongside Library staff to provide services to the public through the medium of Welsh.

The Library has already developed and is implementing a 'scarce skills' apprenticeship scheme for bilingual young people to ensure that the organisation has individuals who are fluent in Welsh to take up posts in the future where specialist skills are required. In doing so, the aim is to ensure that there is no shortage of qualified bilingual individuals to fill these posts in the future.

## **Sport Wales**

### 2022 FIFA Men's Football World Cup

Wales qualifying for the 2022 FIFA Men's Football World Cup in Qatar, their first since 1958, provided an opportunity to showcase the Welsh language on a global platform. The Football Association of Wales (FAW) supported by the Welsh Government organised events through partnerships across Wales and beyond through the World Cup Partner Support Fund, under the umbrella of Gŵyl Cymru.

Over 23,000 children from over 1,700 schools also took part in the Urdd Jambori (Wales' World Cup Singalong) on 10 November 2022. They came together to sing Welsh songs to spur the national team on.

A campaign was held to target football fans and those exposed to the coverage before and during the 2022 FIFA Men's Football World Cup in partnership with the National Centre for Learning Welsh and the FAW. The Our Team, Our Language campaign used emotive contributions from fans who had learnt Welsh in order to drive people to a specially created subsite encouraging them to commit to formally learning Welsh.

### Sport in Wales

Sport Wales and the Welsh Language Commissioner have continued their partnership to support and encourage national organisations in the sports sector to extend their Welsh language offers during the reporting year. Not only is this work an important part of our Welsh language duties through encouraging the development and promotion of more opportunities to use the Welsh language, but also to see the language thrive on a social level. A number of National Governing

Bodies who work closely with Sport Wales, such as [Welsh Triathlon](#) and [Welsh Rugby Union](#), are completing their action plans to extend their services in Welsh and achieve the Welsh Language Commissioner's Cynnig Cymraeg award.

By continuing to produce public e-communications and media content bilingually, Sport Wales have refined their marketing campaigns with small changes making them more appealing to a Welsh audience (such as formatting changes to make Welsh content stand out on a variety of devices). Typically, young people are particularly engaged with online communication. By adopting these marketing changes, Sport Wales' Twitter and Facebook accounts have seen significant increases in interactions and engagements. Simple integration of Welsh phrases, such as 'Llongyfarchiadau' and 'Pob Lwc' into the English content pages on social media encourages others to use the language when celebrating Welsh sport, which is a huge part of Welsh identity.

St David's Day is one example of how Sport Wales utilised their influence to reach thousands of Welsh supporters by using significant days in the Welsh calendar to raise awareness of our Welsh culture as well as cleverly promoting the use of the Welsh language to support our athletes.

Another example of positive work in this area was the strong focus amongst Sport Wales staff as it promoted Welsh Language Rights Day (WLRD) in 2022 which included:

- Internal communications to all Sport Wales staff during the week before, explaining the day's significance, giving information about the Welsh language and asking for their support to extend its use and to promote WLRD.
- External communications on all social channels running a short campaign of the following elements:
  - Internal developments and services at Sport Wales.
  - Video clip in Welsh from the Interim CEO talking about the importance of the Welsh language to sport and to Sport Wales to encourage greater use.
  - Promoting the use of Welsh language in sports clubs.
  - Promoting grants to support Welsh language sporting opportunities.

[Citbag](#) was also launched, a bilingual online hub of physical activity resources aimed at teachers to help give young people the skills, confidence, and sporting experiences for a lifelong enjoyment of sport.

Of the money allocated by the Be Active Wales Fund, funding was allocated to 167 organisations, with 22 providing a sporting activity entirely through the medium of Welsh, and 145 organisations making partial use of the Welsh language. Through the financial support provided to these organisations during 2022-23, 1,489 Welsh-medium activities were provided by 400 instructors, as well as 413 sessions provided partly through the medium of Welsh by 516 instructors.

## **Arts Council of Wales**

During 2022-23, the Council has continued to work with the Welsh Language Commissioner and the Future Generations Commissioner.

The aim of the Welsh Language Offer is to ensure that there are small and consistent developments in Welsh language services. By promoting the services to the public, better services are provided in Welsh and their use is increased.

Arts Consortium Wales continues to meet regularly to design a new lottery fund targeting individuals to develop creative use and ownership of Welsh within communities; and explore creative translation and strategic needs within the creative sector.

Work to promote Welsh language developments within programmes across departments has already taken place, including the Night Out scheme, the Creative Learning programme, young people and the arts, the climate justice scheme and widening engagement.

During the reporting period, there were 9 successful applicants for the Llais y Lle fund. Work on all of the projects has begun and Arts Consortium Wales is mentoring the programme.

The Synhwyr'r Iaith scheme is a resource developed by the Arts Council and the Welsh Consortium. It offers guidance and ideas to creative practitioners on how to use, incorporate and showcase the Welsh language in their creative practice.

The Arts Council and Theatr Genedlaethol Cymru are working with the National Centre for Learning Welsh to plan provision as well. The aim of the work is to assist the National Centre in planning and delivering appropriate Work Welsh courses to arts freelancers. The course was launched during 2021-22 with 175 learners enrolled during the reporting period.

## **Media**

Welsh language broadcasting and media services continue to play an important role in achieving our aim of reaching a million Welsh speakers by 2050. We have continued to stress the importance of S4C and Radio Cymru's provision during this period, including through our Memorandums of Understanding with S4C and the BBC, to help deliver our ambitions to increase the number of Welsh speakers and support opportunities to use and enjoy the language through Welsh language content. This includes Creative Wales' support for Welsh language film in partnership with Ffilm Cymru, in line with its commitment to Welsh language film as set out in the MOU with S4C.

Creative Wales' core activities continue to support the ongoing sustainability of the Welsh creative industries and the development of Welsh and bilingual content. In 2022, its Production Funding guidelines were revised. The new guidelines placed an increased focus on projects of cultural significance and authentic portrayal to showcase Wales and the Welsh language and culture to international audiences.

Through its Production Funding mechanism, Creative Wales supported a number of Welsh language and back-to-back production between April 2022 and March 2023, including Pen ar y Bryn / Tree on a Hill and Un Nos Ola Leuad (S4C and Channel 4).

In December 2022, Creative Wales launched a Young Content Fund (YCF) delivered through funding from the Welsh Government's *Co-operation Agreement* with Plaid Cymru. The Fund required a bilingual focus from all projects, demonstrating its commitment to increasing the levels of Welsh language content. In March 2023, it was announced that eight projects would receive grants through the YCF, to develop new bilingual content for children and young people. During this period, Creative Wales has provided location assistance to Welsh language productions through Wales Screen. Creative Wales also supported the launch of Aria Studios in Llangefni, home to S4C Welsh language staple Rownd a Rownd.

We have continued to raise a range of issues consistently with the UK Government and Ofcom over this period to stress the vital role of effective broadcasting in sustaining and growing the Welsh language. This has included engagement on proposals set out in the UK Government's Up Next white paper on broadcasting, to ensure that as the shift in the broadcasting landscape from traditional broadcast to more online content continues, the rights of Welsh language speakers are promoted and protected on more digital and online channels as the regulatory framework evolves. Work has also continued in relation to the broadcasting and media commitments set out in the Welsh Government's *Co-operation Agreement* with Plaid Cymru, with an expert panel created in June 2022 to explore the establishment of a shadow Broadcasting and Communications Authority for Wales and to support a framework for Wales that meets our needs and ambitions for the Welsh language.

### **Welsh Books Council**

The Welsh Government's financial support through the Welsh Books Council (WBS) has ensured that it is possible to continue to support publishers to produce Welsh language books and magazines for adults and children.

During 2022-23, over 175 Welsh language books and 16 print and digital magazines were published for adults and children.

There are now 1,634 Welsh e-books on ffolio.cymru – most being books for children and young people. Publishing an e-book alongside the printed book is now the practice of most publishers.

We continue to provide a grant to Golwg and their online statistics during the reporting year are as follows: monthly average of website visits – approximately 263,000, impressions on Twitter – over 288,000 and engagement with Facebook material – approximately 16,274.

A tender process for Welsh magazines in relation to 2023-27 took place during the reporting period and awarded grants to 17 print and digital titles, including one-off

grants to two new magazines for the WBC, Klust (music magazine) and Codi Pais (arts / literary magazine) to allow them to develop. In addition, further Welsh Government funding for the Council led to a tender offer to pilot two new magazines – Hanes Byw (history magazine) and a digital sports-related magazine which will be published by G360. The first editions were published at the end of September 2023.

Diversity was a central consideration for the Council's discussions during this period, especially in terms of race and ethnicity in the context of the Welsh language. Welsh Government New Audiences funding allowed the Council to fund the publication of a children's book through a project led by Pontio in Bangor in collaboration with the North Wales Africa Society. Both volumes, *Y Bysgodes* and *The Fish Princess*, were published in April 2023. This funding also allowed Malachy Edwards to work with Gwasg y Bwthyn during this time, and *Y Delyn Aur*, the first Welsh language book to be written by a Welshman from a black background was published in September 2023. This funding also allowed magazines such as Golwg, Barddas and Barn to commission and work with writers and photographers to create content by and about people who are normally underrepresented in the Welsh language press.

Books for learners continued to be published – a total of 39 are now available in the Amdani series. The Welsh Government's New Audiences funding enabled them all to be turned into e-books and talking books.

Work to attract new publishers to the area is ongoing. Broga continues, and O'r Pedwar Gwynt published their first book for adults. The Council is also supporting some of the publishers to develop their adult programme, Atebol and Bwthyn in particular, and again New Audiences funding was key.

Information on Welsh language books published during the year was provided in the form of two separate Yearbooks to recognise different needs between the primary and secondary sectors, as well as specific theme lists for all schools and information on the Book Council's Hwb pages.

As part of the #SchoolsLoveReading scheme, the school library package of 50 books continued to be distributed. Food banks have also received a supply of Welsh language reading for pleasure books as part of the campaign. An external evaluation of the scheme has been commissioned and will be available in autumn 2023.

Bilingual material for the Summer Reading Challenge and Book Day campaigns was made available to schools, shops and libraries, as well as supporting content for the Welsh language websites.

National coverage across a range of platforms was given to titles which reached the short list for the Tir na n-Og Awards.

Reading competitions were held with primary schools across Wales in order to promote reading and the discussion of Welsh language books, and a number of digital and face to face author events were arranged with schools.

The Council established an external advisory board for the Perthyn book project which focuses on underrepresented subjects, authors and illustrators to be part of the first selection of titles to be adapted. Following from that, a tender for the commissioning of original content will be advertised.

The Council set up a Young People's Panel, chaired by Llyr Titus, to solicit feedback and advice from younger readers on gaps in provision and marketing opportunities.

## **11. Wales and the wider world**

We want to show the world that we are a multilingual country that encourages people from all over Wales and beyond to use Welsh. We celebrate that our language is spoken by people from all walks of life and want to welcome everyone to try to use it.

### **Refugees and asylum seekers**

In January 2023, the National Centre for Learning Welsh launched its programme, Welcome to All. The aim of the programme is to introduce the Welsh language and Wales itself to people for whom English is not their first language or who do not speak much English. Different resources are available under the scheme, in a variety of languages and all resources are free of charge.

Digital self-study modules are available in Ukrainian, Cantonese, Syrian Arabic, Farsi and Pashto, introducing Welsh people and places, the history of the language, and our arts, legends and sport. One of the Centre's partners, SaySomethinginWelsh, also offers online Learn Welsh courses through Syrian Arabic, Pashto, and Dari.

During the reporting year, the Urdd collaborated with several partners, including the Government to welcome and rehouse families who had fled the war in Ukraine. The Welsh language was central to the welcome and contributed greatly to our work to make sure Wales is a Nation of Sanctuary.

### **London Welsh School / Ysgol Gymraeg Llundain**

We continue to award an annual grant of £90,000 to the London Welsh School. The school promotes the language in London and provides Welsh language primary education to the children of the city. Many of them return, in due course, to the Welsh-medium education system in Wales.

### **Patagonia**

The Welsh Language Project continues to promote and develop the Welsh language in Patagonia in Argentina. The British Council Wales administers the project, in conjunction with the National Centre for Learning Welsh, the Urdd, Cymdeithas Cymru Argentina, Cardiff University School of Welsh and the Welsh Government.

Some COVID-19 restrictions began to be eased in Patagonia in early 2022, with all international and travel restrictions and domestic measures eased fully in June 2022. In July 2022, 4 undergraduates from Cardiff University travelled out under the Global Wales scholarships to volunteer for a month in the Welsh-speaking communities. They participated in a cross-section of activities including attending lessons for adults and children, going into the primary schools where they led some sessions, as well as mixing with adults learning or perfecting their Welsh.

It has proved challenging post-COVID to recruit Welsh teachers for placements in Patagonia, but by mid-August 2022, British Council was able to recruit and send 3 Welsh teachers for 5 month placements (August – December 2022), re-engaging the schools and community with Welsh language teaching following the gap in placements enforced by COVID-19 restrictions. One of the schools in Patagonia has also appointed a classroom teacher directly from Wales. Each of the primary schools is now working with a maximum enrolment – 450 students each, who are learning in an environment where they receive Welsh every day for some hours as well as being within an environment where the Welsh culture is reflected.

WJEC exams for Welsh learners continued through 2022, with 100% successful pass rate. Learners were supported by a Wales-based tutor, who continues to work on the project and has been running targeted exam preparation online courses from Wales. The majority of the candidates were secondary school students who have special dispensation from the WJEC exam board to sit the Welsh for Adults exams.

The Project Co-ordinator based in Patagonia has continued throughout 2022-23 to oversee the work of the Welsh teachers and the network of local tutors, supporting a programme of in-person and online language lessons, cultural activities and exchange visits. Although varying month to month, there has been a minimum of 20 local tutors per month, providing teaching both in the bilingual schools and to the wider community.

The 2023-24 recruitment process for Welsh teachers to undertake placements in Patagonia commenced in November 2022 and continued through to, and beyond the end of March 2023.

## **International Relations**

Officials have continued to put the Welsh language at the forefront of implementing the [International Strategy for Wales](#). This includes sharing good practice and supporting countries with minority languages around the world.

## **Network to Promote Linguistic Diversity**

The Network to Promote Linguistic Diversity (NPLD) is a Europe-wide network working in the field of language policy and planning for Constitutional, Regional and Small State Languages throughout Europe. NPLD members include national and regional governments, as well as universities and associations.

The primary aim of the NPLD is to raise awareness at European level of the importance of linguistic diversity. Another aim is to facilitate the exchange of best practice among governments, policy makers, practitioners, researchers and experts from across Europe.

The Welsh Government remains a full member of the NPLD. In October 2022, we welcomed the network and Welsh partners to the NPLD conference which we organised to discuss the importance of monolingual spaces to the sustaining of minority languages.

### **The British-Irish Council**

We continue to chair the British-Irish Council's Indigenous, Minority and Lesser-Used Languages work sector. The position of all the languages represented by the British-Irish Council (Welsh, Cornish, Scottish Gaelic, Scots, Manx, Ulster Scots, Irish, Guernesiais and Jèrriais) varies considerably, but they also have a great deal in common. We have continued to take advantage of this forum to discuss and share good practice and expertise with people from different backgrounds.

During the reporting year, the group continued to meet online to implement its work programme. There were presentations on a range of areas including Scotland's innovative e-scoil online learning programme and the story of how it was adopted in Wales. There was also a presentation on the Welsh Government's linguistic infrastructure policy to share good practice and inspire others to invest in the field.

During the reporting year, the group also resumed its practice of travelling across the member administrations after the pandemic. The group travelled with various artists to Connemara in Ireland during October 2022 to scrutinise more closely the role of culture in supporting our languages. Interesting visits and presentations were provided relating to linguistic infrastructure, increasing language use of young people and the role of the media. The visit concluded with a meeting with the Irish Government's Minister for Language and a concert by the touring artists.

During the reporting year, the group continued to publish a series of useful resources on its website, promoting them on social media. The aim is to draw broad scale attention to the languages and create public interest. Resources created and updated by the group include: thematic glossaries in all the Council's languages, this time on the theme of the early years and also culture. Online resources were also updated to support people learning the languages, and a list of songs in all the languages on Spotify.

A group also continued to meet informally as required to share good practice in any areas that arose in order to advise on the language policies of individual member administrations. During the year, there was discussion of second homes, language legislation, and the publication of books in minority languages.

## **United Nations International Decade of Indigenous Languages 2022-32**

During the reporting year, Welsh Government officials contributed to UNESCO's work in preparing for the UN International Decade of Indigenous Languages 2022-32. We look forward to continuing to raise the profile of the Welsh language and sharing best practice with others across the world as part of our commitment to being "*a nation responsible at a global level*". This work includes continuing to develop and strengthen partnerships with key stakeholders such as Wales Arts International.

In collaboration with Wales Arts International, we launched the first year of the decade with the Gwrando project. It focuses on the art of listening to the wise sayings of indigenous languages and endangered communities and about the land they inhabit.

### **Wales in France**

The Cymraeg 2050 Division is a member of the Government's Year of Wales in France 2023 steering group. During the year, it contributed to the development of a strategy to ensure that Wales is showcased as a confident bilingual nation and to create a work stream to support France's minority languages, specifically Breton. A wide range of activities are planned for 2023 in partnership with key stakeholders such as Wales Arts International and Urdd Gobaith Cymru. We will report on the success of this work in the next annual report.

### **Memorandum of Understanding with Brittany**

Officials contributed to the development of a Memorandum of Understanding with Brittany during the year with the aim of strengthening ties, sharing best practice and supporting each other on our language journeys.

### **European Charter Classroom Activities (ECCA)**

The Welsh Government is a key strategic partner of this project which aims to inspire young people's sense of pride in their minority languages. We will report on the success of this work in the next annual report.

### **International events**

The delivery of the *International Strategy* has continued to include the promotion of the Welsh language overseas. Our overseas offices promoted the Welsh language throughout 2022-23, with Saint David's Day providing a focal point for showcasing the language to an international audience. Below are examples of activities undertaken around the world to promote the Welsh language:

#### **Europe**

- In May 2022, our Brussels office hosted the Network to Promote Linguistic Diversity's annual General Assembly and a public event on minority language integration in education models. A discussion panel outlined the

successes seen in Wales, as well as plans for future steps. The event promoted Wales Arts International's video for the UN Decade of Indigenous Languages and the Urdd's message of Peace and Goodwill.

- In collaboration with WAI, several Welsh language music artists performed at the Brussels Summer Reception where the First Minister spoke about the importance of language and culture.
- The Minister for Education and Welsh Language hosted a Saint David's Day reception in Dublin where he discussed the importance of language, culture and identity. Our team in Ireland supported the Urdd to launch its first European Chwarae yn Gymraeg workshop. The inaugural Dewi Pádraig Dialogue in May 2022 provided the platform for WAI to launch their Gwrando project.
- In April 2022, our team in France, with the Scottish Government, organised the second edition of the Celtic Film Festival in Paris, promoting Celtic culture and languages with patronage from the UK's Delegation to UNESCO.

### **Middle East**

- In 2023, St David's Day celebration events were held in both Qatar and United Arab Emirates providing an opportunity to showcase the Welsh language. In Doha, the Welsh singer songwriter, Sywel Nyw, gave a performance in Welsh and the Qatar Philharmonic Orchestra performed the Qatari and Welsh national anthems. In Dubai, Welsh singer, Eve Goodman, gave a performance in Welsh and collaborated with the Sharjah Performing Arts Academy (SPAA) singers performing "Calon Lân".

### **North America**

- As part of the Wales in Canada themed year, there was a strong Welsh presence at BreakOut West in Calgary. Working with FOCUS Wales, our team supported three concerts to highlight Welsh artists and held a music session with Welsh and indigenous languages artists. On Truth and Reconciliation Day, WAI, and a member of Welsh band Adwaith, spoke on a panel discussing linguistic diversity and indigenous languages in the music industry.
- In May 2022, our Washington office worked with stakeholders, including HM Ambassador to the USA who spoke in Welsh, to promote the Urdd Peace and Goodwill message. S4C programme Cymru, Urdd a Alabama, following the Urdd's journey to Alabama, was supported by our United States teams.
- In early 2023, our US teams supported the FOCUS Wales showcase at South by Southwest (SXSW) in Austin, Texas, which featured seven Welsh artists. They also supported an Indigenous Languages Meetup and Creative Wales event.

## **Urdd Message of Peace and Goodwill**

Continuously since 1922, the annual process on May 18 of sending a message on behalf of the young people of Wales to young people in the rest of the world has been simulating and inspiring international and humanitarian activity.

The theme of the Centenary Message of Peace and Goodwill was the Climate Crisis. To celebrate the hundredth such message, the message was launched from the Nobel Peace Centre in Oslo in the company of the First Minister. Promoting peace between countries and providing humanitarian aid to help others has been at the heart of the Urdd's values over the past century, and on 18 May 2022, Wales' young people asked us all to listen and act in relation to climate change and call for positive change around the world. They are an example of the global citizenry that we are trying to create in Wales.

The message was translated to over 101 languages and was shared on social media in 82 countries across the world. The social media reach was 30m and was shared by celebrities such as Gareth Bale, Michael Sheen and Geraint Thomas.

## **Tourism and marketing**

One of the 3 key themes of the new [National Events Strategy for Wales 2023-2030](#), launched in July 2022, is Authenticity. Events in Wales should have a distinct 'Welshness'. To support this, all events receiving Welsh Government Event Wales grant funding are encouraged to take a creative and inclusive approach to use of the Welsh language. This includes actively promoting and facilitating the Welsh language within funded activities wherever possible. Advice and guidance is offered to ensure these are in line with the Welsh Language (Wales) Measure 2011, including signposting to the Welsh Government's Helo Blod translation and advice service.

The COVID-19 pandemic affected the events industry significantly during 2020-22 with most events unable to take place during this time. As the industry emerged from the pandemic, in June 2022 we supported Gŵyl y Triban as part of the Urdd Eisteddfod's Centenary celebrations and in September we welcomed the first major World Wrestling Entertainment (WWE) stadium show to the UK for the first time in over 30 years. Clash at the Castle provided unique opportunities to showcase the Welsh language to new audiences such as their collaboration with Duolingo to produce a guide to iconic WWE words and phrases alongside their Welsh translations.

Alongside these unique events a range of annual home-grown events also provide a regular platform for showcasing the Welsh language, such as Tafwyl which was again supported by Event Wales in 2022 and the Focus Wales music festival in Wrexham at which Welsh-medium artists had the opportunity to perform to an audience of around 10,000 – approximately 30% of which are from outside Wales.

## 12. Digital technology

We have long recognised the need to invest in artificial intelligence for the Welsh language. Indeed, it is one of the three main themes of our [Welsh Language Technology Action Plan](#) published in 2018. The philosophy of that scheme is that where the Welsh Government pays for a language technology element, that element should be available free of charge under a suitable open licence for use and reuse for the benefit of our language.

During the reporting period, we have been funding Welsh language AI developments at Bangor University:

- Macsen, a Welsh language chatbot, is now able to translate English conversation into Welsh.
- Bangor University produced the Welsh language [transcriber](#), which can help produce subtitles for Welsh videos – their synthetic voices are now bilingual, which ensures consistency when switching from one language to another.
- Bangor University worked on tagging parts of speech to create a [collection](#) of almost 10,000 sentences, releasing the [lemmatiser](#) so it can be downloaded under an open licence, and revising the [Dependency Parser](#), which shows the form and relationship of words in Welsh sentences.
- Cysgliad, a grammar and spell-checking tool, reached a total of about 12,000 downloads. Any individual, education or third sector workplace, or organisation with less than 10 members of staff, can now download Cysgliad free of charge.
- Since the end of 2022, the emphasis in the international world of AI has shifted from responding to questions to producing new content such as ChatGPT. Bangor University's new Welsh / English bilingual voices enable companies to offer a bilingual service with the same voice free of charge, both Welsh and English for the same facility. The same is now true for bilingual speech recognition.
- This was presented at the [Technology and the Welsh Language Conference](#) at Bangor University in February 2023 organised through a Government grant.

Cardiff University also worked with Lancaster University to create an interactive Welsh Thesaurus.

[Mapio Cymru](#), with the support of the public, has continued to help improve interactive Welsh language maps, and the National Library of Wales has been concentrating on Welsh place names this year as part of its work with the Welsh language Wikipedia community. This work sees place names being entered as Wikidata so that articles about places in Wales can be created with the appropriate photos to hand. Over [40,000 entries are now part of the map](#).

During the Ceredigion National Eisteddfod 2022, we collaborated with the Wales Centre for Digital Services and others to carry out research with those attending the Eisteddfod to understand what would help Welsh speakers to use more

services in Welsh. The results were discussed at [an Eisteddfod session in the company of the Minister for Education and Welsh Language](#).

- [This](#) is a list of Welsh language and bilingual technology resources currently available.
- We have also developed a [guide](#) for companies and developers to help them design digital services that work bilingually.

### 13. Linguistic infrastructure

*Cymraeg 2050* includes a commitment to continue to develop the linguistic infrastructure of the Welsh language in order to facilitate the journey to a million Welsh speakers and to increase language use.

Linguistic infrastructure resources are the things that help us to use Welsh in everyday life: dictionaries, terminology resources, corpora, and research and standardisation work.

We directly fund a number of projects in the area, including Geiriadur Prifysgol Cymru, and Y Termiadur Addysg (Education Terminology dictionary). A number of the other main resources also receive public funding through various agencies.

Based on the draft linguistic infrastructure policy [consultation](#) held in 2021, we developed our final [Welsh Linguistic Infrastructure Policy](#) during the reporting year and it was published on June 27, 2023. The main aim of the policy is to make it easier for people from all walks of life to use Welsh – individuals at workplaces, schoolchildren, teachers, new speakers or confident speakers – by making sure they know where to turn to access linguistic resources or sources.

To drive this policy forward, during the reporting year we created a new Unit within the Cymraeg 2050 Division to carry out this infrastructure work, as well as work on place names. The Unit has already started work on setting up a new easy-to-access, easy-to-use website for everyone who wants to use Welsh – a website that explains and offers easy access to resources such as the main dictionaries and termbases, as well as resources such as corpora, all in one place.

During 2022-23, we continued to host a panel to address orthography issues under the chairmanship of Dr Dylan Foster Evans of Cardiff University. By including some of the main infrastructure resource providers in the work, it is hoped that this will be a step towards achieving greater consistency to make it easier for consumers to use their Welsh confidently.

In addition, the work of the group set up to standardise equality terms in relation to race and ethnicity, chaired by Professor Delyth Prys of Bangor University, came to an end. The aim of this work was to consult with key stakeholders and individuals to create an up-to-date list of terms for the field to facilitate discussions in Welsh. We published this [list](#) of terms on the Welsh Government website and they are also available in the Welsh Government's terminology base, TermCymru and in Bangor University's Terminology Portal. We have received very positive feedback from stakeholders indicating that they now feel confident to discuss anti-racism work in Welsh in both work and personal contexts.

Over the coming period, we will develop policy proposals for more effective co-ordination of the various elements and to provide a better service to consumers.

## Translation

In order to support translators and interpreters to meet the demand for their services, we continue to support Cymdeithas Cyfieithwyr Cymru (the Association of Welsh Translators and Interpreters). This is the professional association that upholds, ensures and promotes professional translation standards, improving, increasing and developing the skills and knowledge of translators.

- During the reporting year, the Association had 396 members.
- A day for members was held on 28 October in Maentwrog – an opportunity to support members' professional development, facilitate collaboration, and share experiences and good practice.
- The Association was also a partner in the Urdd National Eisteddfod's 19-25 year old translation competition.

## Simultaneous translation in Microsoft Teams

The reporting period saw the culmination of our partnership with the Microsoft corporation to launch simultaneous translation (by an individual) in pre-arranged Microsoft Teams meetings. This is an example where Wales leads the world. The facility is now freely available to everyone with a Teams licence and has increased the amount of Welsh to which we have access online, within Government and beyond. Further information and instructions on using the facility are provided on our [website](#). Thanks to the work in Wales, the facility is available to other languages around the world, and a meeting involving up to 16 linguistic pairs can be held.

## Place names

In our *Programme for Government*, we have made a commitment to work to protect Welsh place names. This intention was confirmed by including a commitment to “*Ensure that Welsh place names in the built and natural environments are safeguarded and promoted*” in the *Co-operation Agreement*.

Our initial steps in this regard were stated in our [Welsh Language Communities Housing Plan](#), published in October 2022, and restated in our *Welsh Linguistic Infrastructure Policy*, published in June this year:

- In terms of geographic names, as well as research to better understand the processes behind changes, work with partners and businesses, as well as prominent cartographers, to better safeguard geographic names in the natural environment.
- Explore how local authorities discharge their role in this area of work to ensure that all possible steps to safeguard place names are being taken.
- Consider the recent use of covenants to protect house names and explore how these might be used more widely in the future.

- Explore the use of conveyancing packages as a way of raising awareness of the value of a particular property's name.
- Consider new ways of raising awareness of and promoting the List of Historic Place Names of Wales.
- Keep an eye on internal developments in the field of constituency wards and the names of new Senedd constituencies for the 2026 election, and advise where appropriate.
- Continue to consider what is happening internationally to keep track of best practice, while continuing to make use of forums such as the British-Irish Council and the Network to Promote Linguistic Diversity (NPLD).

The aim of these actions is to address the challenges facing Welsh-speaking communities with a higher density of second homes. The linguistic infrastructure unit will be responsible for those actions, which aim to *"preserve the Welsh language inheritance of our built environment and topography."*

The [List of Historic Place Names of Wales](#), the only statutory record of historic place names in the UK, is already maintained by the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales on behalf of Welsh Ministers. One of its main objectives is to raise awareness of the wealth of historic place names in Wales and their importance as part of our cultural heritage. The list was established in 2017, and in 2021 a task and finish group was established to review its work to date and formulate recommendations for the future. The [report](#) was published during the summer of 2022.

In the case of house names, geographical names and historical names, there is a real need for more evidence in order to develop sound policy proposals. To that end, in early 2023, we commissioned research to learn more about how, why and where place names change, to enable us to develop targeted policy interventions to protect names in all parts of Wales. Research on the processes used to change names will allow us to find solutions that work. Therefore, together with the short-term steps set out in the *Welsh Language Communities Housing Plan* and the *Welsh Linguistic Infrastructure Policy*, we will prioritise this research as a foundation for future action.

We have also established a Local Authority Welsh Place Names Forum, with representation from Welsh Government as well as the local authorities of Anglesey, Gwynedd, Ceredigion and Carmarthenshire. Its aim is to:

- Share information.
- Identify gaps in the way place names are dealt with, and find opportunities to collaborate.
- Support each other to try to find practical solutions to prevent Welsh names from being displaced.
- Share good practice, so that examples of what works in one organisation can be adopted, where appropriate, in another organisation.

## 14. Language planning

We have a great vision for our language, and great plans to turn that vision into reality. Those plans have to be implemented across Welsh Government policy areas. In that regard, all the work covered in this report therefore falls under the umbrella of language planning.

The Welsh Government has a number of structures to implement the holistic thinking, or to mainstream it across the public policy arena.

### **Cymraeg 2050 Programme Board**

The members of the Cymraeg 2050 Programme Board are senior officials from across the Government. The purpose of the Board is to scrutinise progress, and offer advice, guidance and assurance in the implementation of *Cymraeg 2050*. During the year, the Board met each term to discuss issues such as the Welsh Language Education Bill, the results of the 2021 Census and internal use of Welsh within Welsh Government.

### **The Welsh Language Partnership Council**

The Welsh Language Partnership Council was established under section 149 of the Welsh Language (Wales) Measure 2011. During the reporting year, the Council has continued to meet at least once a term to provide advice to Welsh Ministers in relation to *Cymraeg 2050*. The Council discussed, considered and also advised the Minister on various issues affecting the Welsh language policy area, for example the *Welsh Language Communities Housing Plan*, the Welsh in Education Strategic Plans, the work of the Commission for Welsh-speaking Communities, the *More than just words* framework, the *Anti-racist Wales Action Plan* and the results of the 2021 Census in relation to the Welsh language.

### **The Welsh Language Promotion Group**

The aim of the Welsh Language Promotion Group is to bring together a range of partners working in language planning to network, share information, discuss various matters and share ideas. During the year, discussions were held on various language policy areas including the Transmission programme, the National Eisteddfod's Working in the Community project, the Welsh in Education Strategic Plans, the Commission for Welsh-speaking Communities, the results of the 2021 Census, and diversity and equality.

## 15. Evaluation and research

The [Cymraeg 2050 Research and Evaluation Framework](#) was published in November 2022. The Framework provides guidance on collecting evidence and data, assessing progress, and evaluating the impact of *Cymraeg 2050* as the strategy is implemented. The Framework is intended to inform Welsh Government analysis, and the process of ensuring that activity across policy areas is aligned with the objectives of the strategy. It is also intended to support a collaborative process that will enable the Welsh Government to work together with other

organisations and bodies carrying out research and evaluation, to develop the evidence base for *Cymraeg 2050*.

Throughout the year, the mainstreaming of the Welsh language in Government research and evaluation was further developed across policy areas.

The first data from the 2021 Census on [the Welsh language in Wales](#) was published in December 2022. Working closely with the Office for National Statistics, Welsh Government statisticians published a statistical bulletin summarising the results for Welsh language skills (ability to understand spoken Welsh, speak Welsh, read Welsh and write in Welsh) of people aged three years or over living in Wales. The Minister responded to these results in an oral statement in January 2023.

A [Language Use Survey](#) was conducted between July 2019 and March 2020, and a selection of the findings are included in this report, including data on social use of the Welsh language published in November 2022. Since the end of the financial year, we have also published a bulletin on the use of Welsh in the workplace. We will discuss these findings further in the next annual report. We intend to publish the remaining results on the use of Welsh in relation to services in a separate statistical bulletin. We will combine data from the 2019-20 National Survey for Wales where relevant.

We have also been publishing estimates of the population's ability in Welsh from the Office for National Statistics' [Annual Population Survey](#) on our website on a quarterly basis. Welsh Government statisticians have been working closely with the Office for National Statistics to improve our understanding of the main sources of administrative data and surveys used to compile statistics on the Welsh language. A joint [work plan](#) was published between the Welsh Government and the Office for National Statistics in April 2023, and we will report on the progress of the work plan in the next annual report.

## Conclusion

This report is testament to all work undertaken to take forward the *Cymraeg 2050 strategy*, by the Government and its various partners, during 2022-23. It is vital to pause and scrutinise this work at the end of the year as we evaluate our progress against our targets to double the daily use of Welsh and reach a million Welsh speakers by 2050.

Now that the results of the 2021 Census in relation to the Welsh language are public, we will use this evidence to inform our programme of work over the coming years. As is clear from this annual report, we will continue with the specific focus on increasing the number of Welsh speakers by increasing access to Welsh-medium education across Wales, including expanding and building on the late immersion system as well as initiating work to reinforce of how Welsh is taught in an English-medium context. The education, health, and early years workforce are critical and are a key to the success of increasing the number of speakers. In addition, the focus on sustaining Welsh-speaking communities will remain central to our efforts. The implementation of the *Welsh Language Communities Housing Plan* will remain a priority as well as expanding the work of the Commission for Welsh-speaking Communities to focus on increasing language use in the growth areas. We will also focus afresh specifically on language technology.

Despite the challenges presented by the census results, this annual report shows the progress that has been made across all sectors. The narrative around the Welsh language has certainly changed and there is more support than ever for the language. The entire nation was disappointed with the census data, and we need to take hold of the energy, enthusiasm and desire around us to work together to make a difference for our language.