



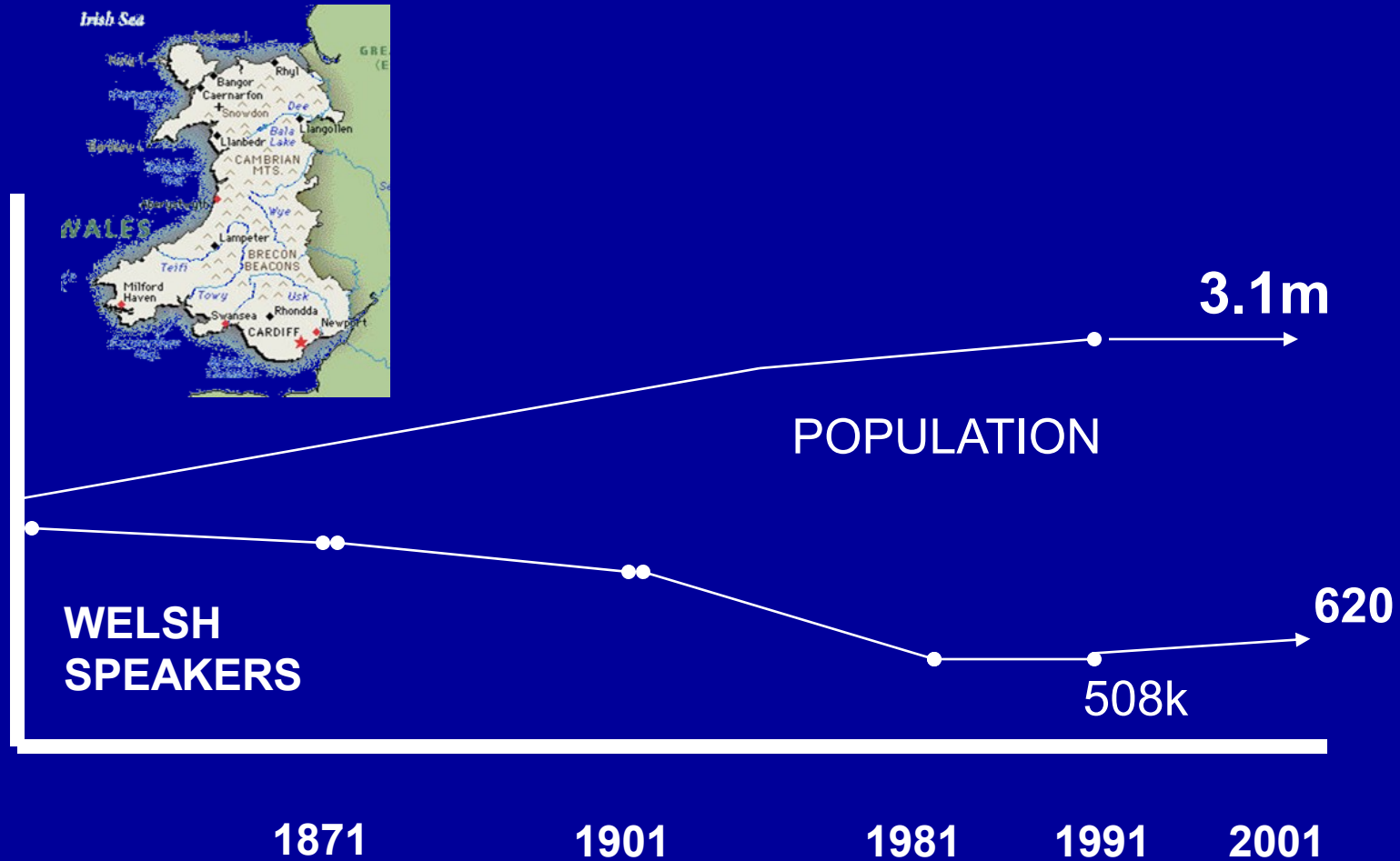
The Dignity of Difference: Bilingual Education in Wales

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QUESCREN, October 29 2018



Census Trends





The first pupils of the first
Welsh-medium school,
Aberystwyth, 1943

Rise in number of Welsh-medium schools

Year	1940	1960	1980	1990/1	2003
Primary schools	1	28	54	445	448
Secondary schools		1	11	44	53



Slow growth and
institutionalisation

1950s limited number of Welsh-medium primary schools, most in Anglicized areas

1960s limited number of Welsh-medium high schools, all in Anglicized areas.

Strong forms of bilingual education/immersion

Curriculum development, teacher training, Welsh as subject, Welsh as medium of teaching.

Second language acquisition. Resistance to bilingualism, fears, suspicions of bilingual agenda.

Rhydfelen 1962





Promotion:
Civil rights

DEFNYDDIWC
YR IAITH
GYMRAEG

DEFNYDDIWC
YR IAITH
GYMRAEG

STATWS
SWYDDOGOL
I'R

FNY
YR IA
GYMRA

Cym
thas yr
th

undeb. cenedlaethol ryfwr-yr
cymru
UCMC
unio

Separate and unequal?

1948-1988

Welsh medium schools were largely an opt-in choice for parents, the default statutory system was largely unilingual English.

45% of pupils did not receive regular lessons in Welsh (pupils in Anglican, Catholic and border authority schools), until Welsh made one of five Core Subjects in National Curriculum in **Education Reform Act 1988**. Thereafter huge growth in L2 acquisition.

Increase in the number and percentage of young people speaking Welsh

5-9 year olds: 1981: 17.8%

1991: 24.7%

2001: 38%

10-14 year olds: 1981: 18.5%

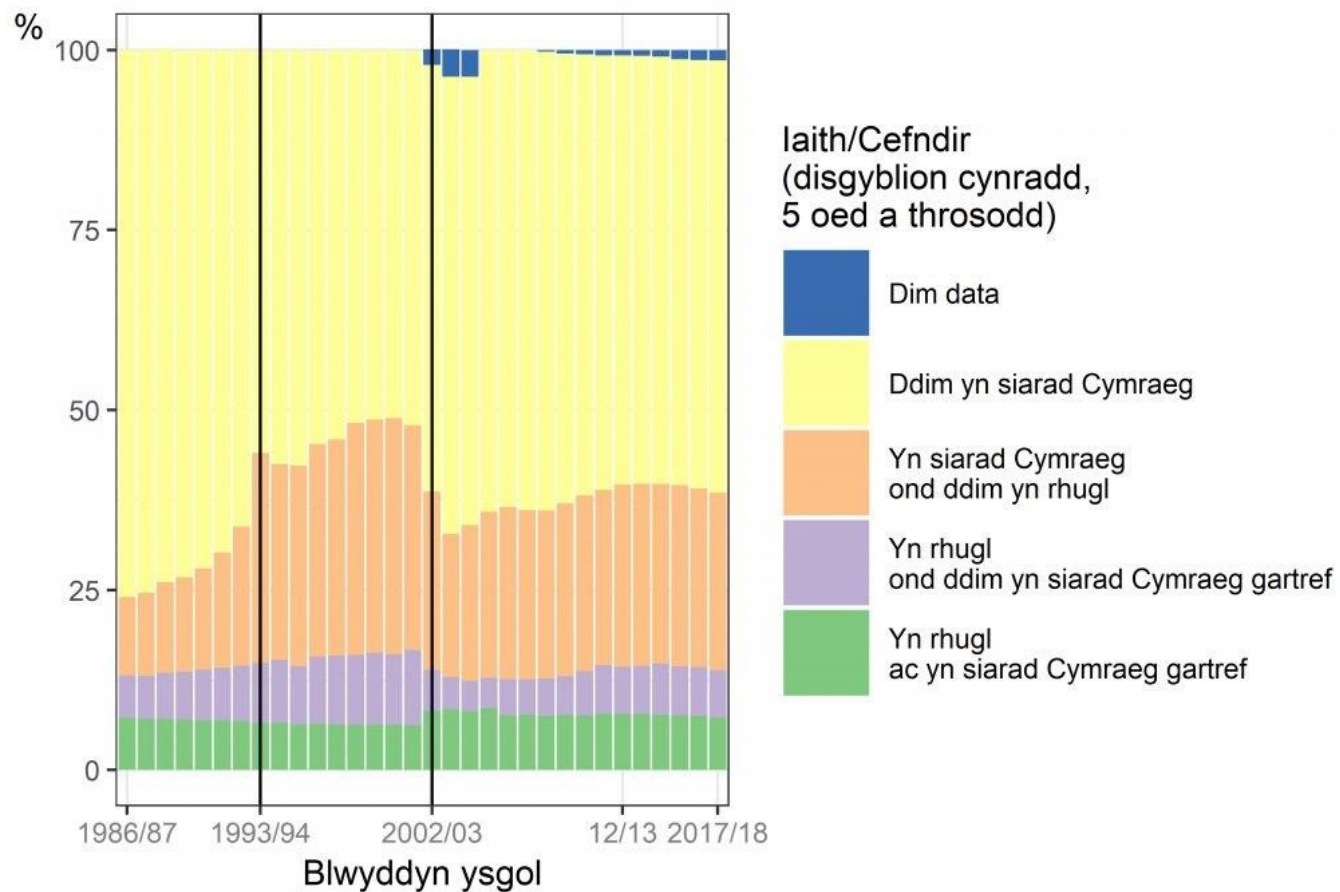
1991: 26.9%

2001: 44%

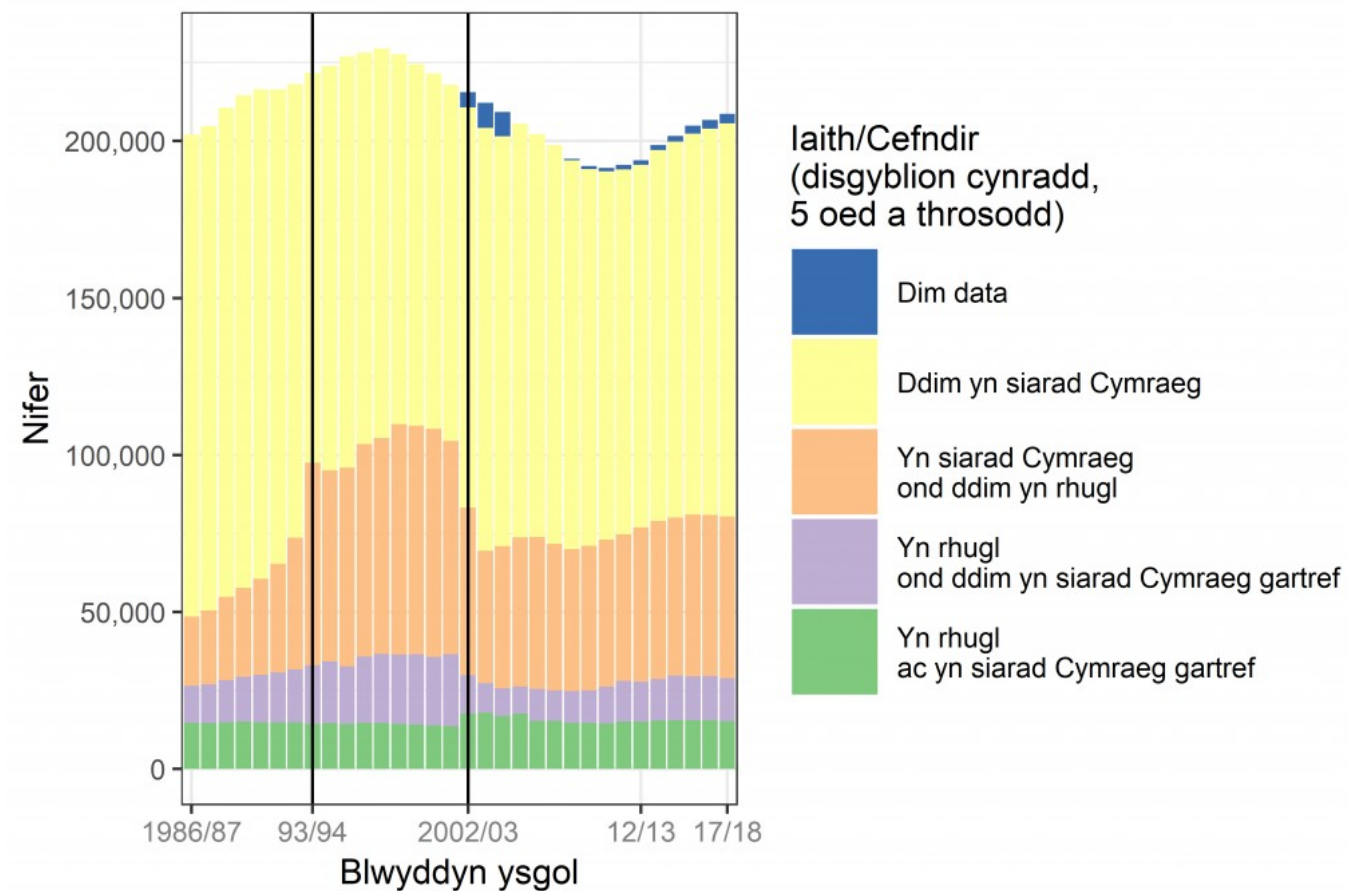




Language/Background % 5 years and over



Language/Background N 5 years and older





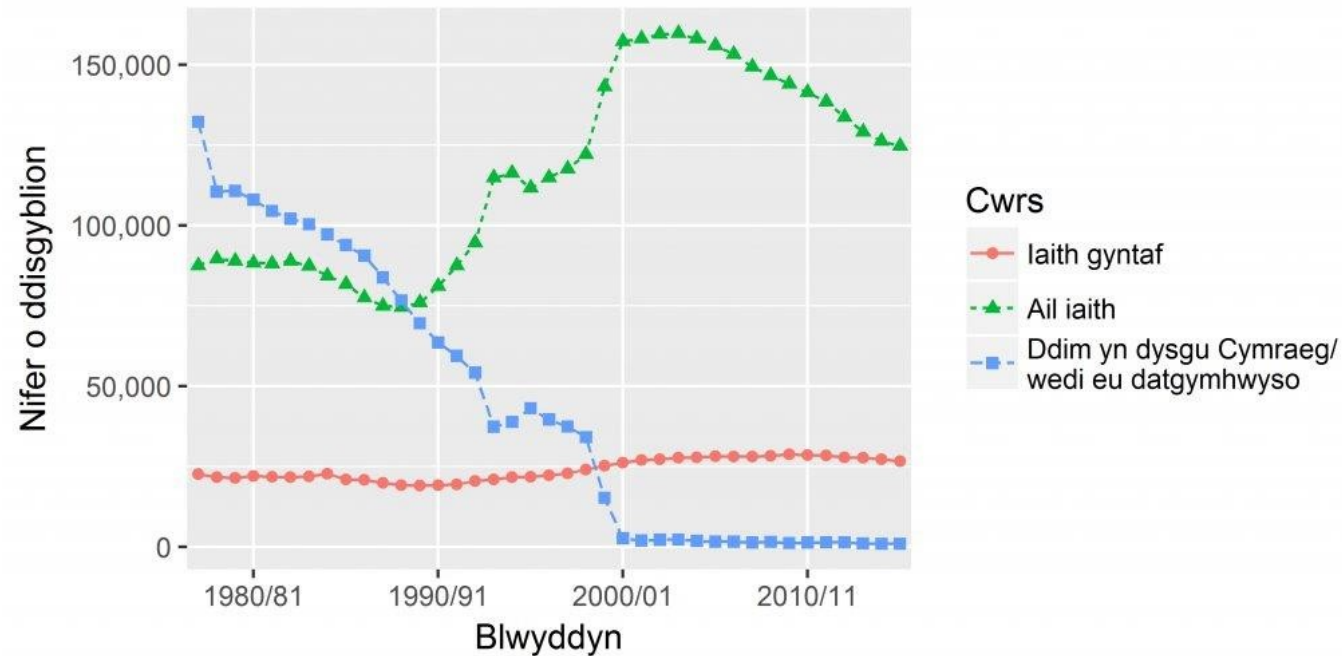
Primary school fluency 2017/8

In 2017/8 only 7.3% (15,185) of children 5 and over in primary schools were fluent in Welsh and spoke it in the home, down from 7.8% in January 2012, the highest proportion that was recorded in the past decade.

Year Groups 7-11 taught Welsh

Disgyblion yr addysgir y Gymraeg iddynt
mewn ysgolion uwchradd a gynhelir
yng ngrwpiau blwyddyn 7-11, yn ôl math o gwrs

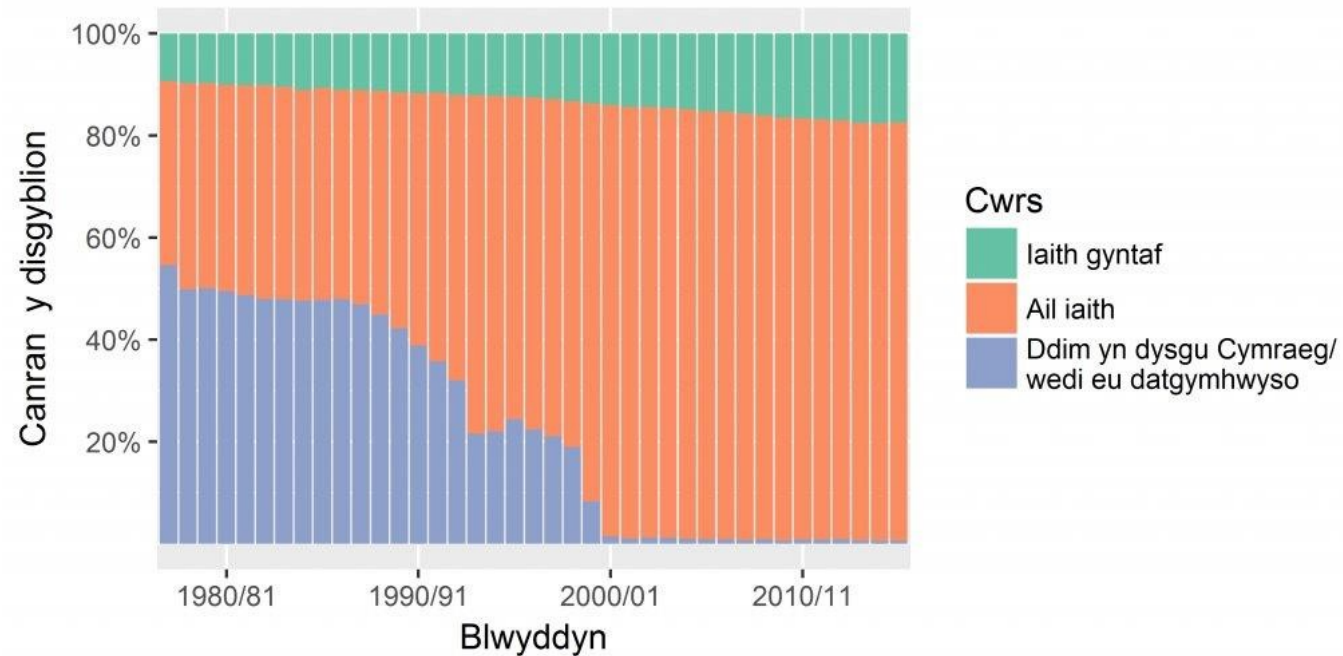
Ym mis Ionawr bob blwyddyn ers 1993/94, mis Medi cyn hynny.
Mae hyn yn cynnwys ysgolion a gynhaliwyd â grant rhwng 1991/92 a 1998/99.



Year Groups 7-11 courses by medium of instruction

Disgyblion yr addysgir y Gymraeg iddynt
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Welsh Medium Schools, January 2018

Schools and Pupils


• Primary	404	66,189
• Middle	8	6,379
• High	47	33,906
• Total	459	106,474

Bilingual Education: Strengths

Parental support

High academic
achievement

Strong cultural,
community and
innovative aspect
to this sector




Bilingual Education: Weaknesses

- Inconsistency in nature of educational experience
- Too much fragmentation in sector
- Four identifiable 'types' of bilingual schools
- Poor succession rates at each stage in education, primary (26%) secondary (17%) tertiary (4%)

Bilingual Schools: Four Categories

- This category has four sub-divisions according to the percentage of subjects taught through the medium of Welsh, and whether there is parallel provision in English.
- Type A: at least 80% of subjects apart from Welsh and English are taught only through the medium of Welsh to all pupils. One or two subjects are taught to some pupils in English or in both languages.
- Type B: at least 80% of subjects (excluding Welsh and English) are taught through the medium of Welsh, but are also taught through the medium of English.
- Type C: 50-79% of subjects (excluding Welsh and English) are taught through the medium of Welsh, but are also taught through the medium of English.
- Type D: all subjects, except Welsh and English, are taught to all pupils using both languages.



Bilingual Education: Weaknesses

- Where does power lie in the system?
- Department of Education and Minister have a crucial role, but the relationship with Local Authorities is often tense when it comes to sanctioning or disallowing the establishment of Welsh medium schools. e.g. Caerffili, Cardiff, Carmarthenshire
- WLB had a statutory duty to provide strategic oversight, but little real power to direct. Wales Government now has WESP to regulate provision.



Bilingual Education: Tertiary

- Woefully inadequate University provision, despite thirty years of periodic investment and centralisation of effort
- Promising initiatives in relation to a Welsh-medium Coleg Cymraeg and to new Trinity-St David's University
- Start-up investment in Welsh-medium lectureships in a range of non-traditional subjects
- Pressure to recognise skills qualifications and training for the professions. e.g. the Law, Pharmacy, Optometry, Accountancy etc.

Welsh Government Policy

- It is the Welsh Government's policy that all pupils should study Welsh from ages 3-16, either first or second language.
- Approximately **16% of pupils attend Welsh-medium schools** and study Welsh as a first language. A **further 10%** attend bilingual, dual-medium, or English with significant Welsh provision.
- **Welsh Government statistics** show that in 2014, 22.2% of 7 year old learners were assessed through the medium of Welsh first language and 17.1% of 14 year olds were assessed in Welsh first language.
- Source:-Wales Government 2016.

Welsh-medium Education Strategy (WMES) in April 2010.

This made a duty in the ***School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013***.

- The strategy sets out six strategic aims and a number of objectives within them:
- To improve the planning of Welsh-medium provision in the pre-statutory and statutory phases of education, based on informed parental demand;
- To improve the planning of Welsh-medium provision in the post-14 phases of education and training, taking account of linguistic progression and continuing development of skills;
- To ensure that all learners develop their Welsh language skills to their full potential, and encourage sound linguistic progression from one phase of education and training to the next;
- To ensure a Welsh-medium education workforce that provides sufficient numbers of practitioners for all phases of education and training, with high-quality Welsh language skills and competence in teaching methodologies;
- To improve the central support mechanisms for Welsh-medium education and training; and
- To contribute to the acquisition and reinforcement of Welsh language skills in families and in the community.

One Language For All – Review of Welsh Second Language at Key Stages 3 and 4 (2013), highlighted a number of issues in Welsh second language.

- Pupils do not continue to develop their Welsh skills well enough on transition to Key Stages 2 and 3;
 - The time allocated to teaching the subject is not sufficient, and in some schools, the allocation is as little as one hour a fortnight;
 - Many teachers in primary schools lack confidence and ability to teach Welsh second language;
 - Too many pupils who follow the GSCE Welsh second language short course are entered for the foundation tier though they are capable of gaining A*- B grades which cannot be achieved in the foundation tier;
 - In most schools there are not enough opportunities for pupils to hear and practise using the language beyond formal Welsh lessons; and
 - In too many secondary schools, the subject is taught by non-specialist teachers who lack a thorough understanding of second language teaching methodology.
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- The report made a number of recommendations, including that the Welsh Government should:
 - Ensure that Welsh second language continues to be a statutory subject within the National Curriculum and continues to be a compulsory subject for all pupils in Wales until the end of Key Stage 4;

Welsh Medium Education Strategy 2016:Next Steps: Contribute to One Million Speakers

- The need to embed processes for planning Welsh-medium provision: strengthening strategic planning processes for all phases of education and training continues to be a priority;
- The need for improved workforce planning and support for practitioners: ensuring a sufficient workforce for Welsh-medium education and training is vital; and
- The need to ensure that young people have the confidence to use their Welsh language skills in all walks of life: education and training alone cannot guarantee that speakers become fluent in Welsh, or choose to use the language in their everyday lives.

A Curriculum for Wales: A Curriculum for Life 2015



New Deal for Education Workforce 2015

Welsh Medium Education Strategy 2016

Successful Futures 2016 onwards

Future Generations Well-Being Act 2015

Recent and Current Developments

Welsh in education timeline

