

CYMRAEG



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Cymraeg 2050: A million Welsh speakers

Action plan 2021-22



Cymraeg 2050: A million Welsh speakers, Action plan 2021–22

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 promote the use of Welsh; organisations working with families, children and young people, and communities; and other interested parties.

Overview

This is the Welsh Ministers' action plan for 2021–22, prepared in accordance with Section 78 of the Government of Wales Act 2006, setting out how they will implement the proposals set out in their Welsh Language Strategy, *Cymraeg 2050: A million Welsh speakers*, during that year. The action plan reflects the priorities for implementing the strategy identified in the *Cymraeg 2050: A million Welsh speakers, Work programme 2017–21*, published in tandem with the Cymraeg 2050 Strategy.

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Additional copies

This document is available on the Welsh Government website at www.gov.wales/welsh-language

Related documents

Welsh Language (Wales) Measure 2011; *Cymraeg 2050: A million Welsh speakers* (2017); *Cymraeg 2050: A million Welsh speakers, Work programme 2017–21* (2017); *Technical report: Projection and trajectory for the number of Welsh speakers aged three and over, 2011 to 2050* (2017); *Welsh in education: Action plan 2017–21* (2017); *Taking Wales Forward 2016–2021* (2016)

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Introduction

In July 2017, we published the Welsh Government's Welsh Language Strategy, [Cymraeg 2050: A million Welsh speakers](#). The [Work programme 2017–21](#) was published in tandem with *Cymraeg 2050* and contains objectives for the strategy's first four-year period. This has formed the basis of our annual action plans ever since.

Section 78 of the Government of Wales Act 2006 places a duty on Welsh Ministers to publish an annual action plan explaining how they will implement the proposals outlined in the *Cymraeg 2050* strategy during each financial year. This is the action plan for 2021-22.

In publishing this Plan for 2021-22, we must acknowledge that the year ahead will be far from ordinary. This Senedd term is drawing to a close, which also marks the end of the first *Cymraeg 2050* work programme. The world has changed dramatically since the launch of *Cymraeg 2050*: the UK has left the EU and we now have COVID-19 disrupting our daily lives. This all presents various challenges in terms of language policy, but also a number of opportunities that we will want to take advantage of in future. Therefore, it's time for us to look back and evaluate, before turning our gaze towards the future and the next Government term.

One of our first tasks during the next financial year will be to produce the second Work Programme for *Cymraeg 2050*, coinciding with the next Senedd term, 2021-2026. In line with the Cabinet's wishes, the Work Programme will be drafted based on a cohesive approach, with input from all Government departments. We will undertake an extensive consultation on the draft programme, and look forward to hearing the views of various stakeholders on our plans.

One thing we can say for certain is that, in 2021-22, we'll continue to operate in the spirit of the [2020-21 Action Plan](#) throughout the year, and the 10 Transformational Changes¹ identified in *Cymraeg 2050* will remain central to our work.

¹ See page 12 [Cymraeg 2050: A million Welsh speakers](#)

Background

Cymraeg 2050 contains 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 per cent (in 2013–15) to 20 per cent by 2050.**

These targets provide a clear narrative for the Welsh Government and stakeholders across Wales, as well as context for the well-being goal found in the Well-being of Future Generations Act (Wales) 2015: *A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language*.

In order to realise this vision, *Cymraeg 2050* is based on three strategic themes:

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

We will continue to focus on these principles as we work across the Government's policy areas, paying particular attention to:

- The importance of ensuring that Welsh remains the main language spoken in communities in the west and north-west.
- Increased opportunities for children and adults to learn Welsh, and for those already learning Welsh or who already speak Welsh to use the language regularly, no matter where they live in Wales.

Prosiect 2050, a multi-disciplinary unit established in 2020-21, will continue to support this work, both within the Government and externally. This unit is responsible for steering our work involving technology, language transmission between parents and their children, community activities etc. The unit also works more extensively with other departments and organisations to ensure that more of them embrace the ideas and goals set out in *Cymraeg 2050*, e.g. our *Leading in a Bilingual Nation* work alongside Academi Wales, which includes a large number of senior leaders within the public sector.

Some areas of work

Theme 1: Increasing the number of Welsh speakers

The early years

We'll continue to work with Mudiad Meithrin to expand Welsh-medium nursery provision across Wales in order to provide a route into Welsh-medium education for as many children as possible.

We'll continue to support efforts to develop the early years' workforce, including:

- Bespoke training developed by the National Centre for Learning Welsh.
- Childcare apprenticeships which Mudiad Meithrin will continue to deliver, in partnership with the Urdd and with the support of the Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol.
- Mudiad Meithrin's apprenticeship scheme, which is specifically aimed at recruiting individuals from diverse backgrounds.

Statutory education

The Welsh in Education Strategic Plans (Wales) (Amendment) (Coronavirus) Regulations 2020 came into force last December. Due to the pandemic, the start date of the next round of Welsh in Education Strategic Plans (WESPs) has moved from 1 September 2021 to September 2022.

During the year ahead, we'll continue to support local authorities as they prepare their Plans, and the following will be central to this work:

- The [WESP Guidance](#) which was published on 27 January this year.
- The outcome of the [consultation](#) on the non-statutory revised guidance on school categories according to Welsh-medium provision. The consultation will end on 26 March.

We'll continue to work with RhAG (Parents for Welsh Medium Education) to offer support to non-Welsh speaking parents whose children are being educated through the medium of Welsh. RhAG has created a website, [Welsh4parents](#), and a forum, help@welsh4parents.cymru, so that parents can ask questions and discuss their concerns about their children's Welsh language skills, and how those skills can be maintained even if Welsh isn't spoken at home.

We'll continue to work with external providers, such as Estyn, as well as the BBC and S4C, to develop further informal Welsh-medium learning resources to help parents support their children.

We'll continue to work to ensure that the new curriculum supports our vision for the Welsh language.

Post-compulsory education

We'll continue to support the Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol in its work with strategic partners and the post-16 sector to place Welsh-medium and bilingual provision on a firm footing. This year, we will award an additional £0.81m to the Coleg so that every Further Education college can employ up to two full-time tutors in the priority areas of health and care, early years care and public services, targeting up to 2,000 new learners from Welsh-medium schools.

The National Centre for Learning Welsh (the Centre) will continue to work to ensure that it can build on the growing interest in learning Welsh. The Centre will also aim to ensure that Cymraeg Gwaith / Work Welsh can return to its pre-pandemic operational level, in order to support work to develop Welsh language skills within the workforces of certain sectors.

The Centre will continue to develop its formal partnership with *Say Something in Welsh* to increase the provision and offer more choice to those wanting to learn Welsh.

A rapid review of the Centre will be completed in 2021-22, which will make recommendations for Learn Welsh provision from 1 August 2022.

Work will also be undertaken to adapt the Centre's Learn Welsh resources for use in schools, and Cymraeg Gwaith training so that it is suitable for teachers.

Educational resources

We'll continue with our programme to ensure that Welsh and bilingual educational resources are available to support all areas of learning and experience in the new curriculum for 3-16 year old pupils, as well as qualifications for 14-19 year olds. Work will also continue to establish infrastructure which will ensure that resources are provided in Welsh and English simultaneously in future.

Teachers

Reaching the 2021 targets for increasing the number of teachers able to teach Welsh, or through the medium of Welsh, has been challenging during a time of great change in education.

We've developed a number of new schemes to meet this challenge e.g. a transition plan to attract more teachers to secondary education, along with the *laith Athrawon Yfory* incentive scheme for those training to be Welsh-medium secondary teachers. These will continue during 2021-22.

In addition, we'll continue to co-create a 10-year plan to increase the number of practitioners able to teach through the medium of Welsh.

Theme 2: Increasing the use of Welsh

We'll implement the recommendations found in [The effects of COVID-19 on Welsh language community groups – survey findings](#). In doing so, we'll focus on the relationship between the Welsh language and community and economic development, and address new challenges and opportunities arising from COVID-19 in relation to maintaining and increasing the use of Welsh.

Use of Welsh within the Government

In terms of *Cymraeg. It belongs to us all* – our strategy for promoting the Welsh language within the Government – the next steps will be to continue to implement the priorities of the first five years of the strategy, namely the 10 Objectives and Actions for 2020-2025.

Welsh Language Standards

We'll continue with the rolling programme to bring other sectors and bodies under the Standards.

Theme 3: Creating favourable conditions – infrastructure and context

The economy

We'll ensure widespread collaboration with local authorities and other stakeholders on a series of actions resulting from our Economy Round Table. This work will look at the potential contribution of community and co-operative groups to the future of the Welsh language and a large number of other elements.

Digital technology

We'll build on our [progress](#) to date with our [Welsh language technology action plan](#). During 2021-22, we'll continue to improve the provision of Welsh language speech technology and invest in a specialist translation machine which will help to increase the amount of Welsh used in the NHS. We'll also continue to work with companies to drive the amount of Welsh language technology they're creating. We'll utilise the public procurement system with the aim of driving the market for bilingual software.

Linguistic infrastructure

We'll consult on our [draft linguistic infrastructure policy](#) until the summer. 'Linguistic infrastructure' includes corpora, dictionaries and terminology resources, and all research and standardisation work undertaken to allow these resources to grow and develop. The aim of the policy is to make it easier for everyone to know where to access support when using Welsh. During the latter half of the year, we'll focus on analysing the responses and developing the final policy.

Wales and the wider world

We'll continue to promote the Welsh language on the international stage. This will include playing a leading role in international networks on linguistic planning, such as the Network to Promote Linguistic Diversity (NPLD), the British-Irish Council and UNESCO's Decade of Indigenous Languages 2022-32.

We'll continue to highlight the importance of the Welsh language and our bilingualism as we promote Wales internationally, as part of our International Strategy.

We'll also work with the Urdd on the 2021 Peace and Goodwill Message – this year's theme will be Equality for Women, in order to highlight the inequalities that women worldwide continue to face today.

Racial and ethnic equality

The Government will be consulting on a Race Equality Action Plan during the spring and summer. The Plan will include a number of proposals to ensure that considerations in relation to racial and ethnic equality are further embedded as core principles in our work. We'll also ensure that the anti-racism agenda is fully adopted by all of our partners involved in *Cymraeg 2050*.

Research and statistics

The census takes place during March 2021. The Office for National Statistics (ONS), responsible for running the census in England and Wales, plans to publish all of the data from the 2021 Census between March 2022 and March 2023.

We'll continue to develop our research and statistics evidence base as a foundation for implementing *Cymraeg 2050* during this period.