



Cyfieithiad I'r Saesneg gan Gomisiwn y Senedd
English Translation by Senedd Commission

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Dyfodol i'r iaith

Dyfodol i'r iaith is a non-partisan organisation that works for the benefit of the Welsh language.

Its aim is to influence, by constitutional means, the substance and content of public policy and legislation in order to promote the growth and prosperity of the Welsh language.

Chief Executive: Dylan Bryn Roberts

President: Cynog Dafis

Chair: Heini Gruffudd Treasurer: Huw Edwards

**Board Members: Elaine Edwards, Eifion Lloyd Jones, Wyn Thomas, Catrin Alun, Iwan Edgar,
Dr Ruth Richards, Rabat Gruffudd**

FOR THE ATTENTION OF:

The Culture, Communications, Welsh Language, Sport and International Relations Committee

Consultation on the educational implications of the 2021 Census data

23 January 2023

1. There is no significance in the decline in the percentage of Welsh speakers aged 5-15.

The decline can be attributed to:

- i. parents' interpretation of their children's ability to speak Welsh
- ii. absence of children from school due to Covid
- iii. the main reason for the high percentage of Welsh speakers since 2001 is that Welsh has been compulsory since 1999. The percentage increased up to ten times between 1991 and 2011 (Graph 1). In 1991, the south's percentages were:¹

Central Glamorgan	16.1%
West Glamorgan	15%
South Glamorgan	11.9%
Gwent	4.8%

1.1 Adapting learning in English-medium schools:

- i. Teaching more subjects through the medium of Welsh, especially practical subjects, and extracurricular activities
- ii. Consistency in the Welsh curriculum from the nursery sector onwards
- iii. Developing one Welsh language continuum across all schools in Wales requires long-term planning.

1.2 Staffing implications

It will be necessary to create a workforce confident in the Welsh language.

- i. Sabbatical courses to teach the language to 17,000 teachers
- ii. a programme of linguistic transition for 800 English-medium primary schools and 150 English-medium comprehensive schools
- iii. Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol, the Welsh Learning Centre and providers to be given sufficient funding and staff to provide the training.

2. There has been a significant increase in the percentage of speakers aged 20-44 in most counties since 2001.

(Graph 2 below).²

The number of Welsh speakers aged 20-44 in the less Welsh-speaking counties of the south has increased by 18,760 between 2001 (43,156) and 2021 (61,916). (Graph 3).

This is important because

- i) it is among this group that families are reared
- ii) this growth coincides with the growth of Welsh-medium education
- iii) investment can change the situation of the Welsh language.

¹ John Aitchison and Harold Carter, *A Geography of the Welsh Language 1961-1991*, University of Wales Press, Cardiff, p.104.

² 2001 and 2011: <https://statswales.gov.wales/Catalogue/Welsh-Language/Census-Welsh-Language/welshspeakers-by-la-broaderage-2001and2011census>

iv) the movement from the more Welsh-speaking areas benefits less Welsh-speaking areas the percentage in this group decreased only in two counties, Flintshire and Carmarthenshire. (Graph 4).

2.1 Increase the number of Welsh-medium schools

How:

- i. programme to establish a Welsh-medium primary school in every community³
- ii. annual fund to provide new Welsh-medium schools
- iii. school re-organisation, English-medium schools to transition to Welsh-medium schools over a period of 7 years
- iv. every new primary school will be a Welsh-medium school
- v. convince parents of the benefits of providing pupils with one linguistic base where the Welsh language is dominant.

2.2 Teaching through the medium of Welsh will need to become a mission for the teaching profession.

A comprehensive programme of learning and Welsh refresher courses for prospective teachers are needed.

2.3 More of our students to stay in Wales

- i. more students to study through the medium of Welsh
- ii. more students to get jobs in Wales
- iii. more teachers

How:

- i. the Seren scheme to encourage students to attend Welsh universities and to study through the medium of Welsh
- ii. ending the living allowance for students studying outside Wales
- iii. the grant for those studying outside Wales subject to spending the first five years of employment in Wales

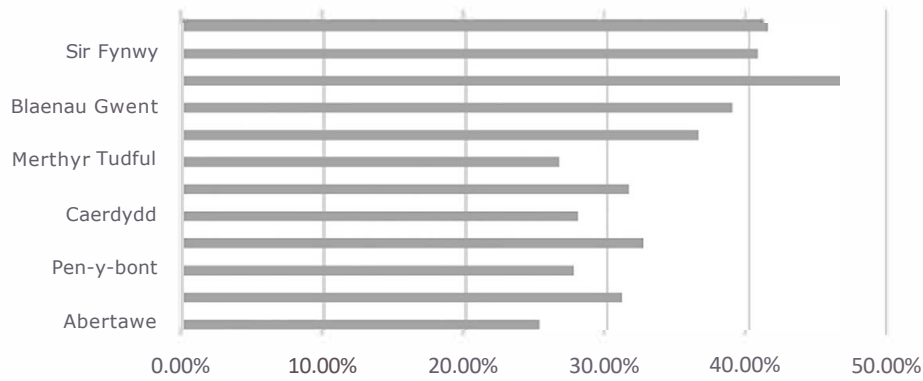
2.4 The numbers of Welsh speakers aged 20-44 in the four most Welsh-speaking counties fell by 5,381 (8.3%) since 2011:

Gwynedd	23,622 > 21,553
Ceredigion	9,620 > 8,585
Carmarthenshire	19,639 > 18,542
Anglesey	11,604 > 10,424.

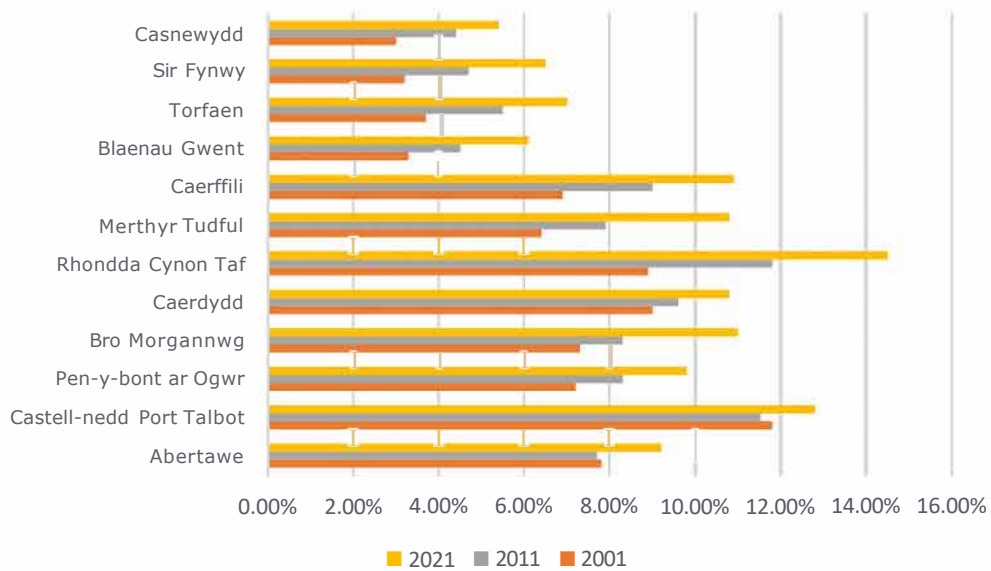
The implications of economic and housing policies are clear.

³ *Developing the Welsh language in Swansea*, Swansea RhAG (Parents for Welsh-medium Education), 2017. There is a correlation between the presence of a school in the community and a high percentage of attendees.

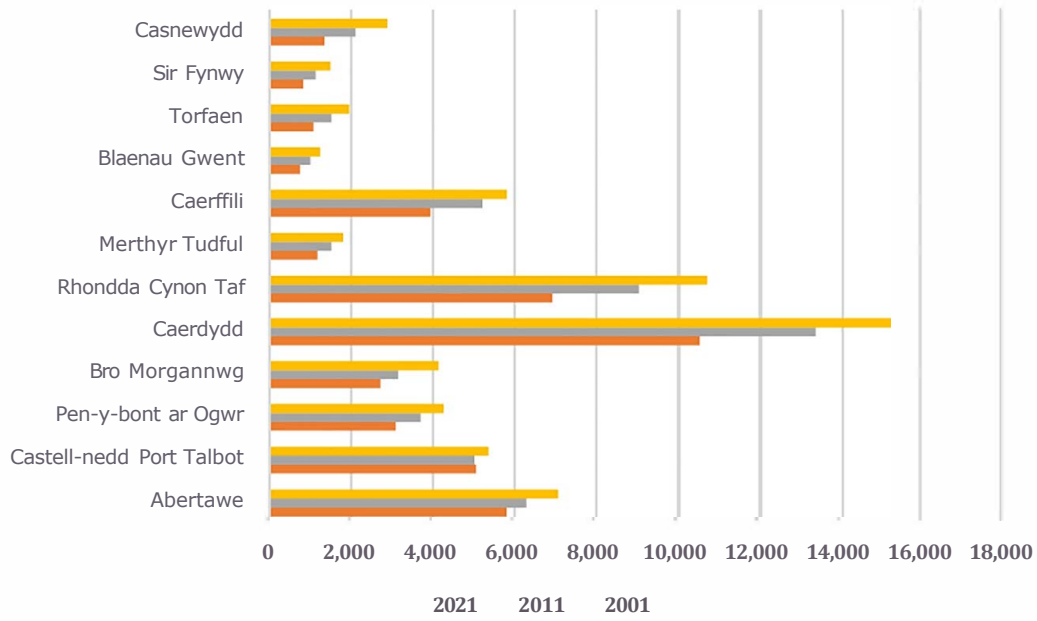
Graph 1
Insignificant percentage of 'Welsh speakers' aged
5-15, 2001 Census



Graph 2
Percentage of Welsh speakers aged 20-44 in the less
Welsh-speaking counties in south Wales, 2001, 2011
and 2021



Graph 3
Number of Welsh speakers aged 20-44 in the less
Welsh-speaking counties in south Wales,
2001, 2011 and 2021



Graph 4
Increase/decrease in the percentage of Welsh speakers aged
20-44, 2011-21, by county, as a percentage

