

Cyflwynwyd yr ymateb hwn i'r [Pwyllgor Plant, Pobl Ifanc ac Addysg ar Bil y Gymraeg ac Addysg \(Cymru\)](#)

This response was submitted to the [Children, Young People and Education Committee on the Welsh Language and Education \(Wales\) Bill](#)

WLE 13

Ymateb gan: CBAC

Response from: WJEC

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WJEC welcomes the opportunity to respond to the Welsh Language and Education (Wales) Bill.

WJEC is Wales's largest awarding body and we offer nearly 200 GCSE, AS, A Level and vocational bilingual qualifications.

We welcome the key provisions in the Bill and look forward in supporting this through our qualifications, especially the main objective of ensuring that all pupils reach the end of compulsory school age as independent Welsh language users.

In cooperation with the regulator, Qualification Wales, WJEC have designed new Welsh language qualifications for 14 – 16 learners with focus on the new curriculum for Wales and developing oral skills. GCSE Core Cymraeg and Level 2 Advance Core Cymraeg will be an opportunity for learners to develop and enhance their Welsh language skills with 50% of both qualifications focusing on oracy. We are fully aware that increasing learner's confidence in their use of Welsh is essential for the Cymraeg 2050 national strategy of increasing the number of Welsh speakers to a million by 2050. Young people will have opportunities to use their Welsh naturally and start becoming confident speakers by studying both new qualifications.

WJEC is aware of the challenge of recruiting competent teachers in delivering lessons in Welsh and through the medium of Welsh and this is why we are supporting teachers by putting together a comprehensive programme of professional learning to guide them through current and new qualifications. We are also delivering a range of Welsh medium resources to support teachers and learners, including Knowledge Organisers, Blended Learning and textbooks.

WJEC is a provider of Welsh for Adults qualifications, and this suite of provision align with the principles that are championed by the Association of Language Testers in Europe (ALTE), of which WJEC is a member. We will be hosting ALTE's 62<sup>nd</sup> Meeting and Conference in April 2025. Work has been done already to align the Welsh for Adult qualifications with the European Common Reference Framework. WJEC would welcome the opportunity to develop other language qualifications in the future using the European Common Reference Framework for Languages as this would also align our GCSE, Level 2 and GCE qualifications with Welsh for Adult qualifications to have a single continuum of Welsh language learning. As a business, we believe that a Welsh language skills continuum would support us during the recruitment process. WJEC encourage their employees to have Welsh lessons and several of them take the opportunity to sit Welsh for Adults qualifications annually. We advocate the opportunity for our employees to have greater Welsh language ability and use their Welsh speaking skills daily.

Y Pwyllgor Plant, Pobl Ifanc ac Addysg 09 Hydref 2024

Children, Young People and Education Committee 09 October 2024



We welcome the vision to create statutory language categories for schools. WJEC is committed to promoting and supporting a bilingual education system, including working with Canolfan Bedwyr, Bangor University's Centre for Welsh Language Services, Research and Technology, to consistently use standardised terminology across Welsh medium assessments and resources. We are also continuously looking to improve methods of working with publishers of resources and securing sufficient bilingual skills in all teams. This is also demonstrated through working with the Welsh Language Commissioner in relation to the Welsh Language Scheme and delivering bilingual services.

Employees from WJEC are grateful for the opportunity to continue to be part of the Task and Finish Group – code describing Welsh language ability. We look forward to opportunities in the future to create qualifications and give educational support to learners and employees to have shared understanding of their individual journey to learn Welsh.

Ian Morgan  
Chief Executive  
WJEC