



Devolution and The
Language of Wales

Welsh devolution – the long view

c. 940 Welsh laws are brought together as one code under Hywel Dda (Hywel the Good)

1282 The Edwardian conquest of Wales and the end of government by native Welsh princes

1400 Owain Glyndwr's revolt starts and for a short time establishes an embryonic Welsh state. Parliaments are held at Harlech and Machynlleth

1536 The Acts of Union, making Wales a part of England but providing for parliamentary seats for MPs from Wales

1881 The passing of the Sunday Closing Act 1881 – the first specific law for Wales

1907 Welsh department of the Board of Education created

1920 The Church in Wales becomes an independent body, separate from the state

1951 Post of Minister of State for Wales created

1964 Welsh Office established along with a cabinet post of Secretary of State for Wales

1979 First proposals for a Welsh Assembly turned down in a referendum

1997 Wales votes in favour of creating a National Assembly for Wales in a referendum

1999 First elections held; the National Assembly starts work; Government of Wales Act 1998 comes into force

2007 Government of Wales Act 2006 comes into force; the National Assembly and Welsh Government are formally separated and the National Assembly gains powers to make laws for Wales in defined areas

2011 Wales votes in favour of giving the National Assembly further law-making powers

2014 The Wales Act 2014 is passed, giving the National Assembly further law-making powers

2017 The Wales Act 2017 is passed, recognising the permanency of the National Assembly for Wales and Welsh Government and changing the model of devolution to a Reserved Powers Model.

2020 The Senedd and Elections (Wales) Act 2020 becomes law and the Assembly changes its name to Senedd Cymru or Welsh Parliament, commonly known as the Senedd.



The Treachery of the Blue Books

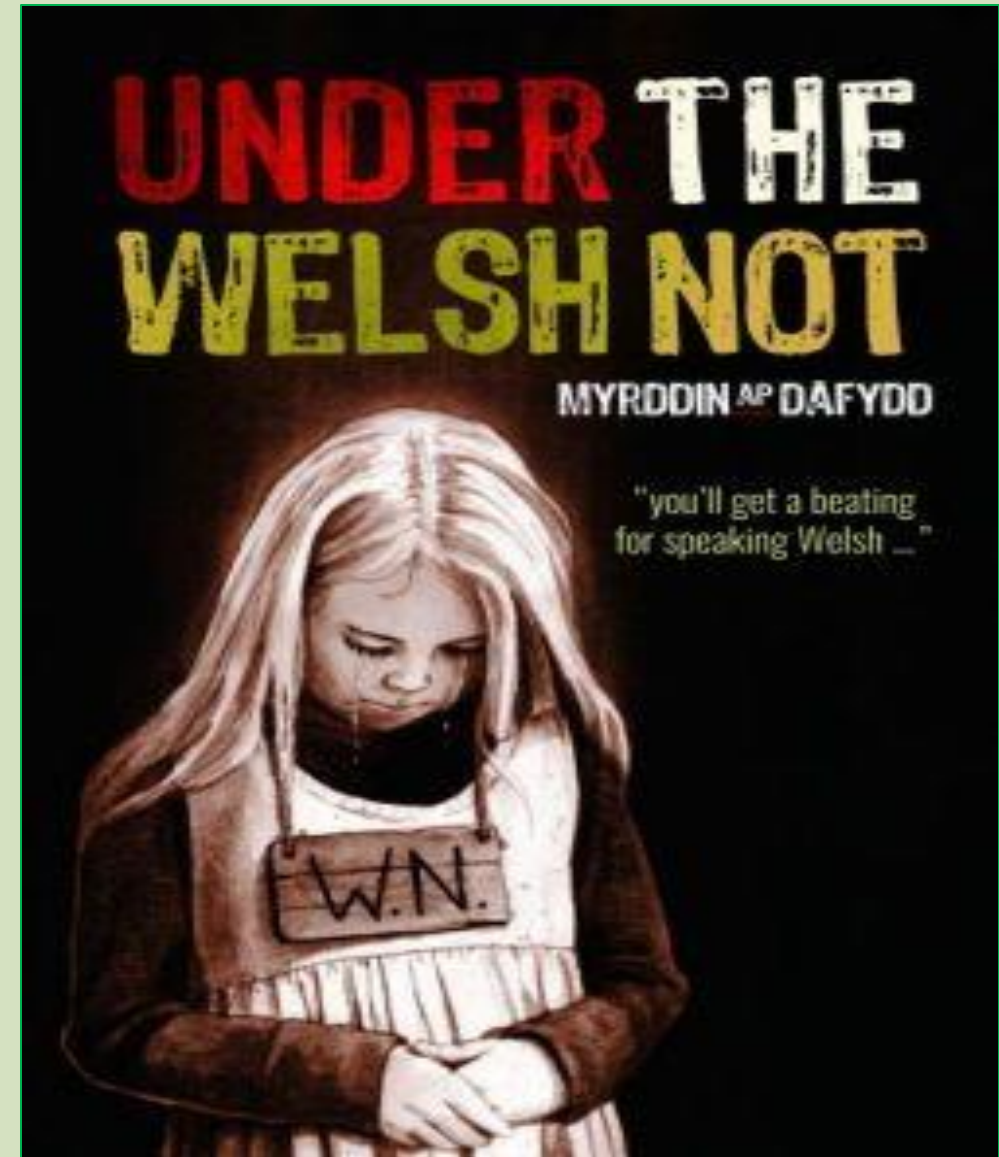
HOW TO ANGLICIZE TAFFY!—In some of the English schools in Wales, when a scholar is heard speaking Welsh, he is punished by being obliged to carry about with him a wooden pin, until he is lucky enough to catch one of his companions committing the same offence, when he joyfully transfers the detested pin to the fresh culprit.

(Rolnik, 2014).

**The Welsh Not-
forbidding children to speak Welsh
at school**

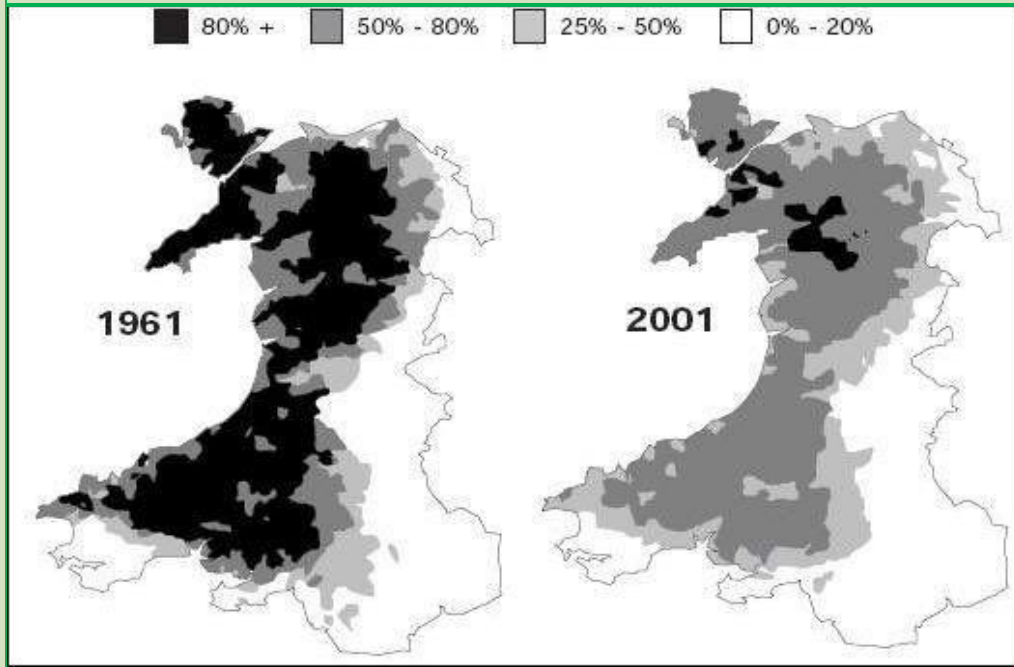


(The Welshnot, 2020).



(ap Dafydd, 2019).

Map of Welsh speakers 1961 versus 2001.



(Jones, 2020).

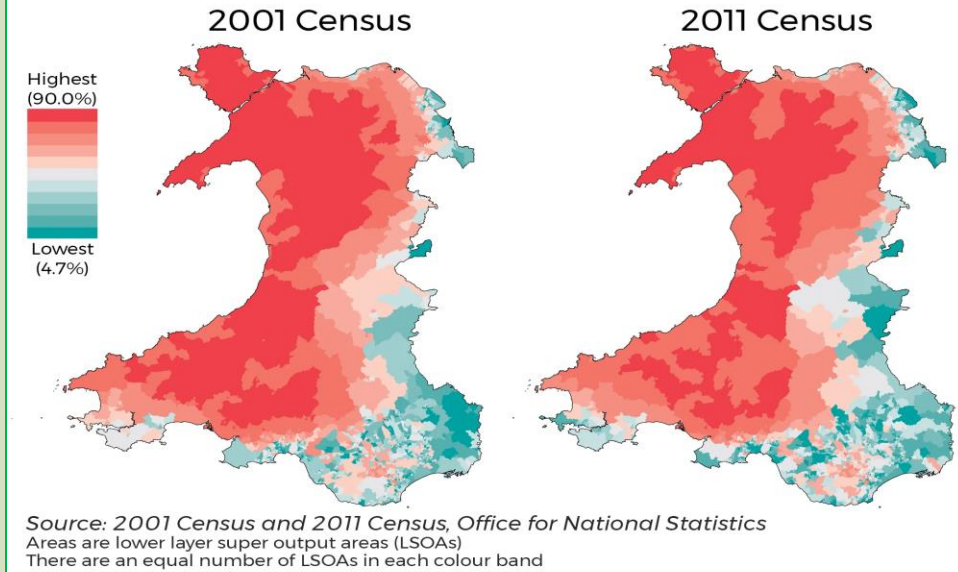
The Census shows a decrease in the percentage of Welsh speakers from 21% (582,000) in 2001 to 19% (562,000) in 2011. The ONS *Annual Population Survey* (APS) which asks a similar question to a sample of households on Welsh language ability suggests that the number of people reporting they can speak Welsh has risen steadily since 2010, with the latest data in 2018 reporting that over 875,000 people aged 3 and over can speak Welsh. (Devolution 20 – How has the ‘size of Wales’ changed?, 2019).



(Welsh not English image, 2020).

2011 was the first year the census asked a question about national identity. Nearly two-thirds (66%. 2.0 million) of Welsh residents expressed their national identity as. (Devolution 20 –How has the ‘size of Wales’ changed?, 2019).

Welsh speakers (aged 3+)



National Assembly for Wales
Senedd Research

20

(Devolution 20 –How has the ‘size of Wales’ changed?, 2019).

The heat map above shows the percentage of people who said that they can speak Welsh in the 2001 and 2011 Censuses, by area. The data shows that the percentage of people who consider themselves to be Welsh speakers is higher in north and west Wales compared to south east of Wales. (Devolution 20 – How has the ‘size of Wales’ changed?, 2019).



(Curriculum Cymraeg, 2020).

Develop a national programme to increase understanding of bilingualism. (Welsh Government, 2020).

Increase the proportion of each school year group receiving Welsh-medium education from 22 per cent (based on 7,700 seven-year-old learners in 2015/16) to 30 per cent (about 10,500 in each year group) by 2031, and then 40 per cent (about 14,000 in each year group) by 2050. (Welsh Government, 2020).

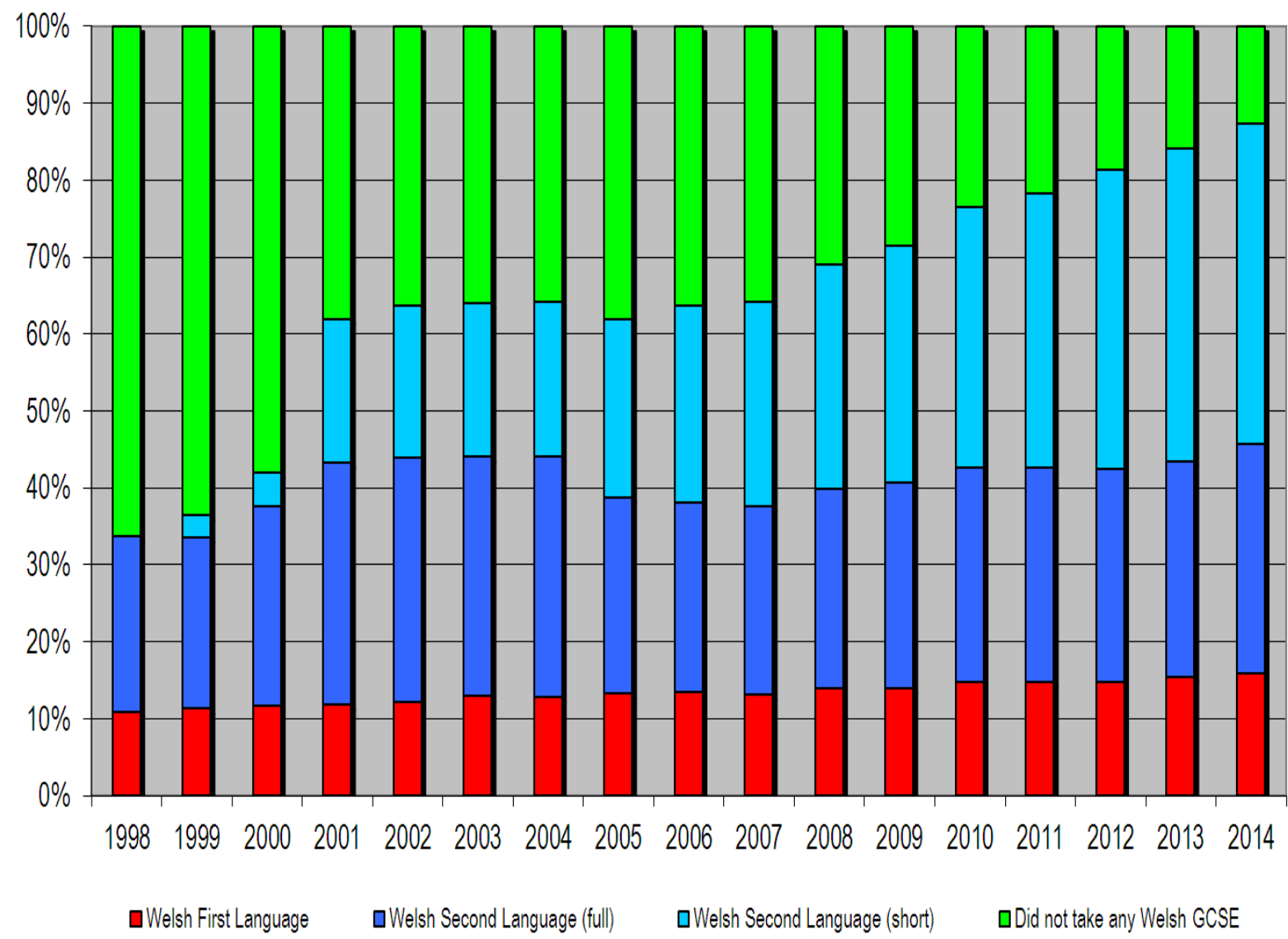
The education system needs to be "radically changed" to reach the Welsh Government's target of having one million Welsh speakers by 2050, the language commissioner has said. Meri Huws said all children under seven need to be immersed in Welsh. (BBC News, 2017).

The new curriculum should see a renewed focus on learning Welsh primarily as a means of communication, particularly oral communication and understanding. Further, the Welsh Government intends to enhance the value attached to the Welsh language by strengthening the focus on its commercial value for the jobs market, the suggested cognitive benefits of bilingualism and its importance in enabling children and young people to have a good understanding of the cultural life of Wales in the past and the present. (Jones, 2020).

Transform how we teach Welsh to all learners in order that at least 70 per cent of those learners report by 2050 that they can speak Welsh by the time they leave school. (Welsh Government, 2020).

The Welsh Government has set itself an ambitious target to grow the number of Welsh speakers to one million by 2050 (based on Census results). Its Welsh language strategy, *Cymraeg 2050*, sets out the key interventions, support and investment required to achieve this goal. These include such things as expanding Welsh-medium early years provision, increasing the proportion of children receiving Welsh-medium education and developing opportunities and promoting its use socially and in the digital sphere. (Devolution 20 –How has the 'size of Wales' changed?, 2019).

Welsh Language GCSE Entries (percentages)



Welsh second language results are down more than 10% with 63.1% achieving grades A*-C in 2019, compared to 74.8% in 2018. This fall is partly owing to the rise in entries following the end of the Welsh language short course GCSE. (Wightwick, 2019).

Many pupils felt that, as they grew older and advanced through schooling, the emphasis of using the language as a normal activity for communicating and managing relationships was replaced by an instrumental approach to “learning” Welsh that focused on exams and results rather than genuine language acquisition and/or appreciation. The shift from engaging Welsh as an actual “living” language to understanding it as a language of “study,” coupled with perhaps an undue emphasis on a qualification, seems to diminish the value of speaking Welsh and its status as a method of expression and social interaction. (Smith, 2016).

Welsh Assembly's Cymraeg 2050 Policy – One million Welsh Speakers by 2050

The Welsh Government has revealed an exciting new initiative aimed at boosting the number of Welsh speakers in Wales. As a pledge to safeguard the future of the Welsh language, the new strategy hopes to increase the number of Welsh speakers to one million by 2050; double the current number of fluent speakers. (Welsh Government, 2020).

To achieve their targets, Welsh Government will not only build new Welsh-medium schools but have also admitted that many schools will undertake a transition from English to Welsh. Remaining English-medium schools will impose an increased focus on teaching the Welsh language to their pupils. (Welsh Government, 2020).

“Clearly, the more pupils learn through the medium of Welsh, or hear and see more Welsh as a normal part of school life, the better the prospect of increasing fluency among the next generation of Welsh speakers. So, we do support this. But we also need to look at challenges faced by the current generation – in particular, adults in work – And I want to see more opportunities to upskill the Welsh workforce in their actual workplace.” (Jones, 2017).

(Camau Dysgu Cymraeg, 2020).



Camau

Cynllun Dysgu Cymraeg Addysg a
Gofal Plant Blynyddoedd Cynnar /
Learn Welsh Scheme for Early Years
Education and Childcare

“Success will depend on persuading our different communities, different individuals, why it is so valuable to be bilingual, to have skills in both our languages” (Jones, 2017).



(Welsh Government, 2020).



(Cymraeg logo, 2020).

Ensure that Welsh Government leads by example by promoting and facilitating increased use of Welsh by our own workforce. (Welsh Government, 2020).

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(Senedd logo, 2020).

In Welsh-speaking communities, the challenge is to ensure that people have good quality jobs, fulfilling careers and homes so that they can stay, or return to those communities. In other areas, promoting the use of Welsh as a language for the workplace and business will become increasingly important. (Welsh Government, 2020).

The findings of the Welsh Language Use Survey 2013–15 (Welsh Government and Welsh Language Commissioner 2015) show that Welsh speakers who have learnt Welsh at home as young children are more likely to be fluent than those who have learnt to speak the language at school. The survey also shows that fluent Welsh speakers use the language more often than non-fluent Welsh speakers. Another fact revealed in the survey is that young Welsh speakers are more likely to have learnt to speak Welsh at school than anywhere else, and that older Welsh speakers are more likely to have learnt Welsh at home as young children than anywhere else. (Welsh Government, 2020).

All schools in Wales will be required to introduce the language continuum to all learners over time, and embed the acquisition of Welsh language skills across the curriculum. Through this we aim to ensure that by 2050 at least 70 per cent of all learners develop their Welsh language skills and are able to use the language with confidence in all aspects of their lives by the time they leave school. The introduction of the continuum will take time. Its success is dependent on developing the skills of the workforce and also on the availability of opportunities for learners to use the language in a wide range of contexts outside the classroom. (Welsh Government, 2020).



dysgucymraeg.cymru
learnwelsh.cymru

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