



Is there room for bilingualism or multilingualism in the National Eisteddfod?

The present controversy around bilingual rapper SageTodz

The controversy

Eisteddfod 2023



The controversy

Eisteddfod 2023

Formalized in 1860 as a National organization after the Victorian revival.



The controversy

Eisteddfod 2023

Formalized in 1860 as a National organization after the Victorian revival.

SageTodz speaks out



The controversy

Eisteddfod 2023

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SageTodz speaks out

- SageTodz announced on his Twitter account that he would not be performing at the Eisteddfod in summer 2023 due to his English lyrics





Sage Todz

@SageTodz · [Follow](#)



For anyone wondering, I won't be performing at Maes B or Eisteddfod this year due to the Welsh language policy they have in place.
*Essentially there's too much English in my songs 🙄

8:46 PM · Jun 8, 2023



267



Reply



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The controversy

Eisteddfod 2023

Formalized in 1860 as a National organization after the Victorian revival.

SageTodz speaks out

- SageTodz announced on his Twitter account that he would not be performing at the Eisteddfod in summer 2023 due to his English lyrics
- [BBC news reports on the Twitter post](#)



Eisteddfod: Sage Todz will not perform over English lyrics

🕒 9 June



National Eisteddfod



GETTY IMAGES

Sage Todz posted on social media he would not be performing at the festival

The controversy

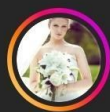
Eisteddfod 2023

Formalized in 1860 as a National organization after the Victorian revival.

SageTodz speaks out

- So and so speak to so and so news offices SageTodz announced on his Twitter account that he would not be performing at the Eisteddfod in summer 2023 due to his English lyrics
- BBC news reports on the twitter post
- The public leave comments on the Newspaper's social media posts showcasing the stories





huwreesbrides 6 w

Chware teg iddo ymateb hollol broffesiynol 🙌🙌



4

Reply

See translation



helenlj285 6 w

Ymateb gwych gan Todz! Urddasol iawn 🙌



1

Reply

See translation



bethanbletherston 6 w

🙌🙌🙌🙌🙌 da iawn fe 🙌



Reply

See translation



fframadwy 6 w



Reply



chrisorme59 6 w

So narrow minded.



1

Reply



chrisorme59 6 w

So Racist!



2

Reply

View 3 more replies

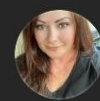


pethers__ 6 w

Good.



Reply



coco_1724_ 6 w

Surely.. discrimination of sorts?



6

Reply

View 6 more replies



chrisorme59 6 w

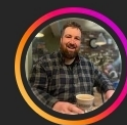
Does that mean goldie lookin chain can't play either?



1

Reply

View 2 more replies



jderekrees 6 w

These headlines are a problem. The Eisteddfod have offered him loads of opportunities if he sings in Welsh. He has chosen not to. Stop making it look like the eisteddfod has rejected him. He has rejected them.



8

Reply



brianfshaw 6 w

Its a NATIONAL Welsh Eisteddford... whereas he no doubt wld be welcome at the INTERNATIONAL Eisteddford.



12

Reply



aluncorr 6 w

Ridiculous. Anyone even using some Welsh should be encouraged and made welcome
It's the spirit of his work that matters.

Reply



32



james.henry1989 6 w

What do you expect from people who f*ck sheep

Reply



1

View 3 more replies



catrinelen85 6 w

You're just a jealous troll

Reply



olewhair 6 w

Cymru ni 💪 together stronger. We love you ! Shame on the @eisteddfod 🏴󠁧󠁢󠁥󠁮󠁧󠁿🏠❤️
✌️

Reply



1

Welsh government's Vaughan Gething urges Eisteddfod to rethink rules

🕒 10 June



National Eisteddfod



GETTY IMAGES

Sage Todz posted on social media he would not be performing at the festival

A Welsh government minister has urged the National Eisteddfod to rethink its rules after a rapper was told he could not play using English.

Sage Todz said on social media he would not be performing at the festival because of its Welsh language policy.

Vaughan Gething said the national event could instead be more flexible in order to bring in a bigger audience.

The National Eisteddfod says the rule about the Welsh language was "fundamental" to the festival.

Mr Gething said Sage Todz brought the language to "a wider, more diverse audience" and performers like him helped grow the language.

He wrote on Twitter: "@eisteddfod could take this opportunity to reconsider their approach - this is the major showcase event for the future of the language."

The controversy

Eisteddfod 2023

Formalized in 1860 as a National organization after the Victorian revival.

SageTodz speaks out

- SageTodz announced on his Twitter account that he would not be performing at the Eisteddfod in summer 2023 due to his English lyrics
- Newspapers begin to catch on to the Twitter post
- The public leave comments on the Newspaper's social media posts showcasing the stories
- Other bilingual artists refuse to perform at Eisteddfod in solidarity with SageTodz



Eisteddfod artists refuse to perform in Welsh language row

🕒 19 June



National Eisteddfod



LILLI UNWIN

Izzy Rabey (pictured) said she and Eädyth Crawford would not perform due to the strict language policy at the National Eisteddfod

Izzy Rabey tweeted that she and Eädyth Crawford would pull out of the festival unless the language policy was changed for invited acts.

She said they would be meeting the board to discuss how the Eisteddfod could be more inclusive.

The National Eisteddfod said it would respond to the artist personally.

It comes after bilingual rapper Sage Todz said he would not perform at the festival because there are English lyrics in his songs.

The Eisteddfod's rules say: "All compositions and competing must be in Welsh unless specified to the contrary."

The controversy

Eisteddfod 2023

Formalized in 1860 as a National organization after the Victorian revival.

SageTodz speaks out

- SageTodz announced on his Twitter account that he would not be performing at the Eisteddfod in summer 2023 due to his English lyrics
- Newspapers begin to catch on to the Twitter post
- The public leave comments on the Newspaper's social media posts showcasing the stories
- Other bilingual artists refuse to perform at Eisteddfod in solidarity with SageTodz
- Eisteddfod officials blast the Newspapers and social media comments by the public



Several chances, it said were offered to the rapper to perform, that included a commission to create new songs in Welsh.

A spokesman said: "Our language rule was discussed at length with Sage Todz, and we respect the fact that he's a bilingual artist.

"It was his decision to keep to his principles and continue to create music bilingually and in English."

In 1996, Super Furry Animals were booked to play the National Eisteddfod in Llandeilo after releasing their debut album, Fuzzy Logic.

The band printed the English lyrics and handed them to the audience whilst they whistled their songs from the stage.

Dr Wiliam contrasted today with the 1950s, when people would possibly "discuss over their cornflakes an issue that they weren't happy about, and then decide to write to the local paper.

"But in writing, and then posting, somebody can then stop, and think, and decide that writing a letter isn't such a good idea".

But social media platforms have changed the way opinions are expressed.

"We can all reach for the phones in our pockets, and within five seconds we've put something up that can hurt somebody else, and voiced an extreme opinion that we can later regret," she added.



GETTY IMAGES

Sage Todz posted on social media he would not be performing at the festival

By Elen Wyn & Ellis Roberts

Newyddion S4C

Culture wars have reached the Welsh language scene after bilingual rapper Sage Todz was told he couldn't perform at this year's Eisteddfod, an academic has said.

Dr Mari Elin Wiliam told **Newyddion on S4C** that social media was encouraging extreme opinions.

A Gwynedd councillor also said these views may deter people from learning Welsh or going to the festival.

Eisteddfod head Betsan Moses blamed the media for negativity.

Councillor Beca Brown, who is responsible for the Gwynedd education portfolio said: "Artists like Sage Todz, Eadyth, Izzy Rabey and Dionne Bennett are popular artists and take the Welsh language to new audiences and are splendid ambassadors.

"Comments can be hurtful and what I thought was that the discussion on social media has been something of a shop window not only for the Eisteddfod but also the Welsh language.

"If I was a person who was thinking of coming to the Eisteddfod for the first time, or to send my child to a Welsh language school and I saw that debate, would that draw people towards the Welsh language?

"I don't know whether it would."

During an interview on Newyddion S4C, Betsan Moses, chief executive of the National Eisteddfod, said that "people have an opinion, and we need to be respectful as we discuss, and ensure that the Welsh language is inclusive".

She added: "I think that there's been a lot of negativity over the last few months, I'm going to say that you (Newyddion S4C) are partly responsible, stories are created... a tweet is taken and it's a top story."

Reminded by presenter Rhodri Llywelyn that it was not Newyddion S4C which had said in reports that Sage Todz had been prevented from performing, she said that "it was you as an entity that had done it, and everybody within the corporation (BBC)

In recent weeks a number of people have expressed disappointment that the conversation on social media platforms concerning the Welsh-only rule at the Eisteddfod has become unpleasant at times.

Gwynedd council's cabinet has said it is supportive of the Welsh rule but is disappointed at "the tone of the discussion".

"I would say that culture wars have reached the Welsh language scene," said Dr Mari Elin Wiliam, a lecturer in Welsh history in Bangor University, who cited polarised opinions on such issues as Boris Johnson, celebrities, Brexit and climate change.



Betsan Moses, chief executive of the National Eisteddfod, says tweets are turned into stories

Eisteddfod boss criticises coverage of Welsh-language rule

🕒 25 June



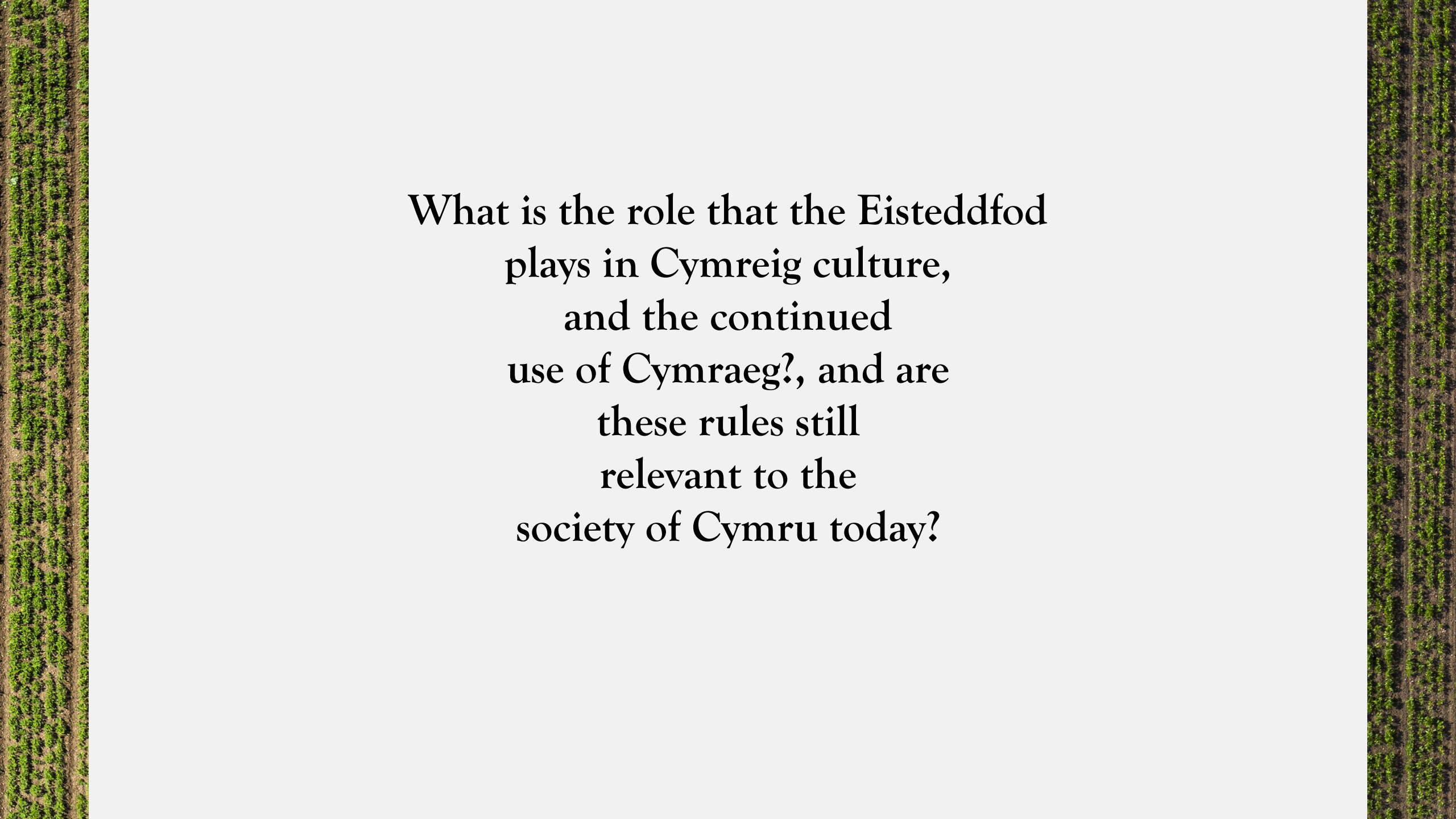
National Eisteddfod



Betsan Moses described news stories on the festival's Welsh language policy as "clickbait"

By **Catriona Aitken**

BBC News

An aerial photograph of a green field with a dirt path, used as a decorative border for the slide.

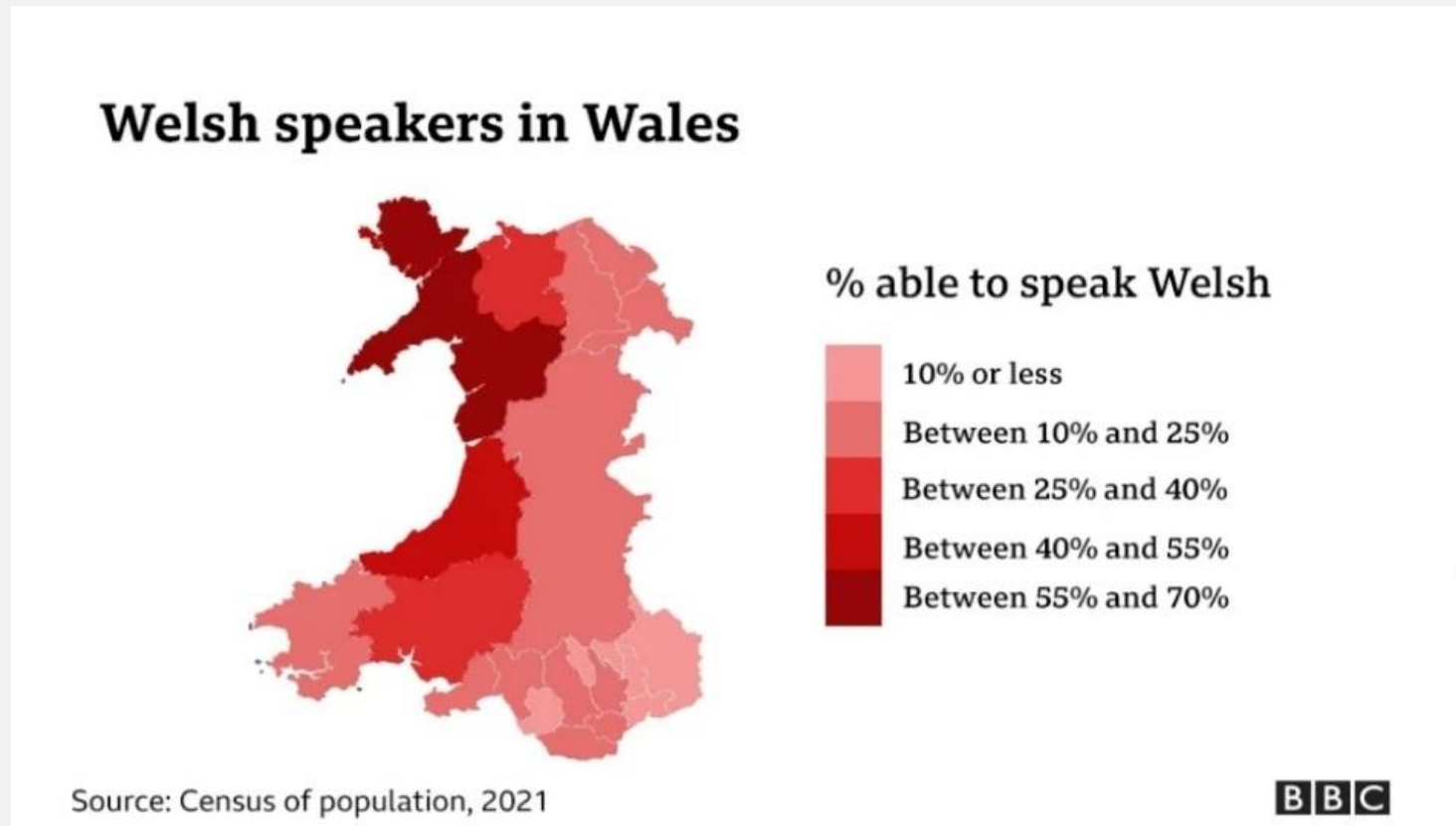
What is the role that the Eisteddfod
plays in Cymreig culture,
and the continued
use of Cymraeg?, and are
these rules still
relevant to the
society of Cymru today?

Year	Attendees
2008 Cardiff	156,697
2009 Meirion	164,689 + 7,992
2010 Blaenau Gwent	136,933 - 27,756
2011 Wrexham	148,892 + 11,959
2012 Vale of Glamorgan	138,767 - 10,125
2013 Denbigh	153,704 + 14,937
2014 Carmarthenshire	143,502 - 10,202
2015 Montgomeryshire	150,776 + 7,274
2016 Monmouthshire	140,279 - 10,497

How many people speak Cymraeg in Cymru?



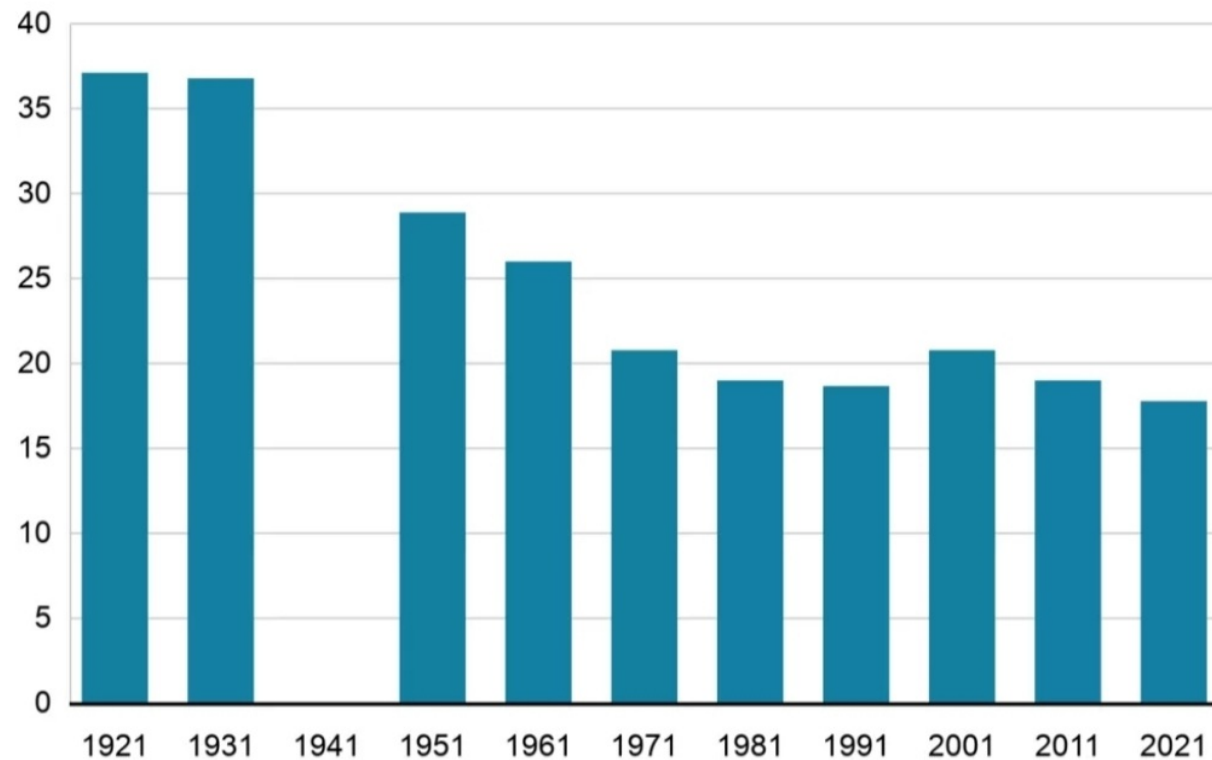
How many people speak Cymraeg in Cymru?



How many people speak Cymraeg in Cymru?

How many people are able to speak Welsh?

% aged over three who can speak Welsh, by decade



No Census in 1941 due to World War II

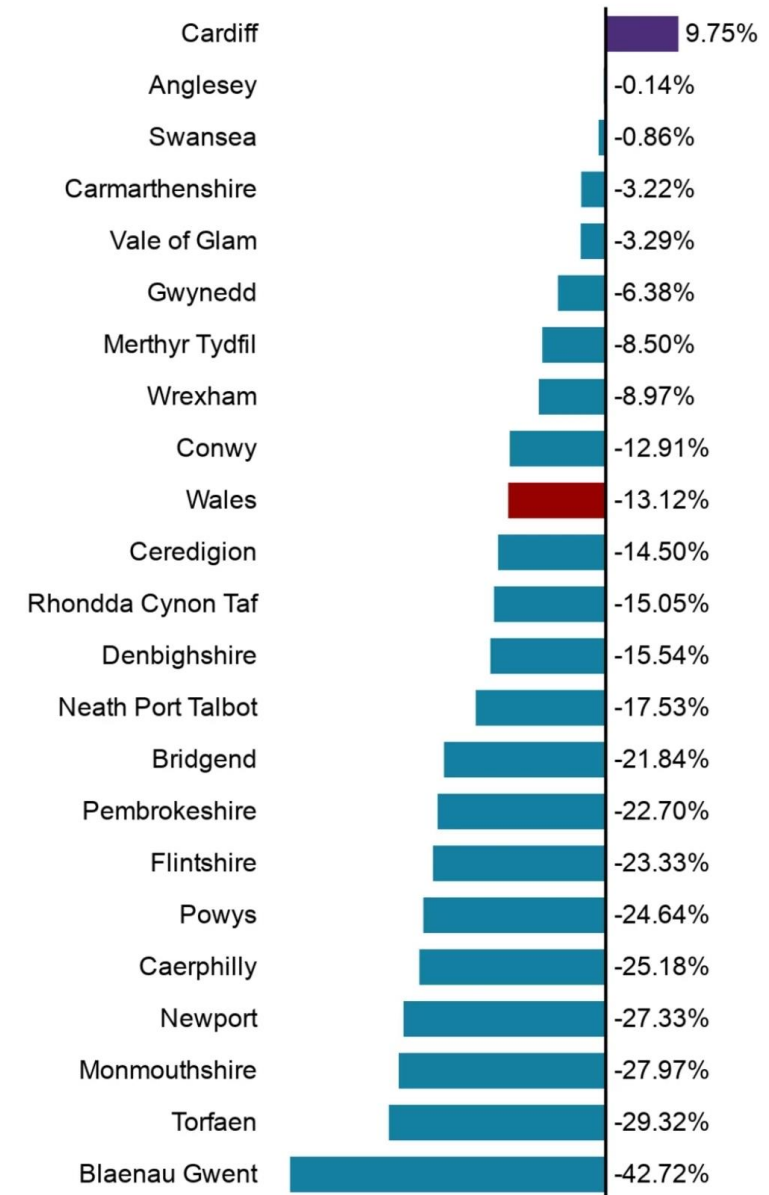
Source: Census/ONS

BBC

How many people speak Cymraeg in Cymru?

Changes in children speaking Welsh

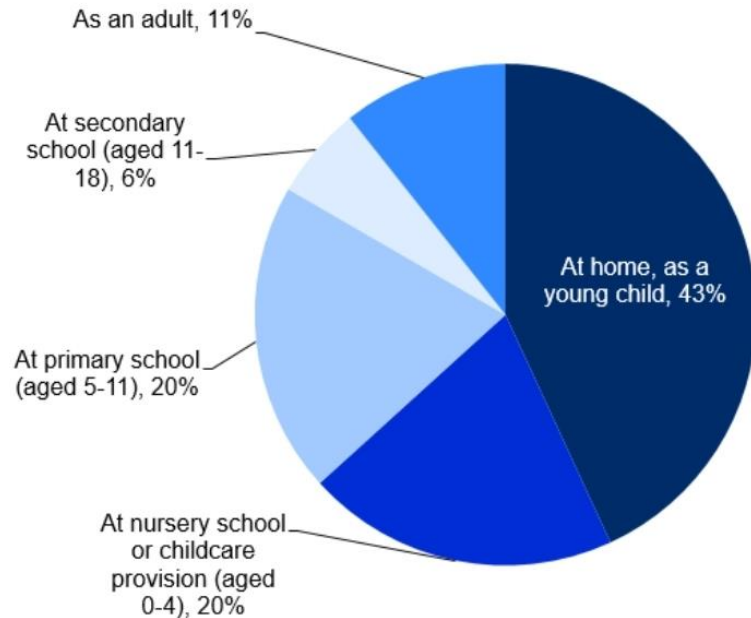
% change in numbers aged 3 to 15 able to speak Welsh between 2011 and 2021



Source: Census 2021/ONS, December 2022

How many people speak Cymraeg in Cymru?

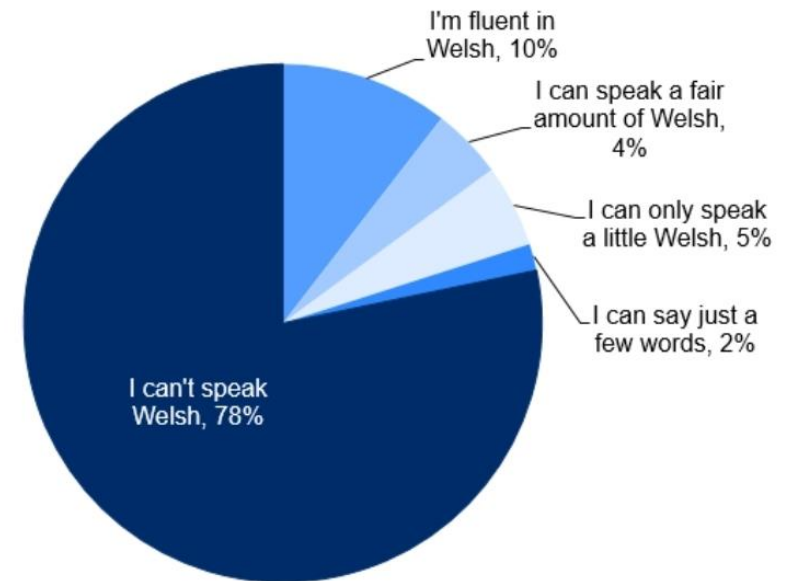
Chart 7: When Welsh speakers started learning to speak the language, July 2019 to March 2020



Source: Welsh Language Use Survey 2019-20

Note: A small percentage of Welsh speakers had started learning to speak the language elsewhere, for example, at university. These people are included with those who started learning to speak the language as adults.

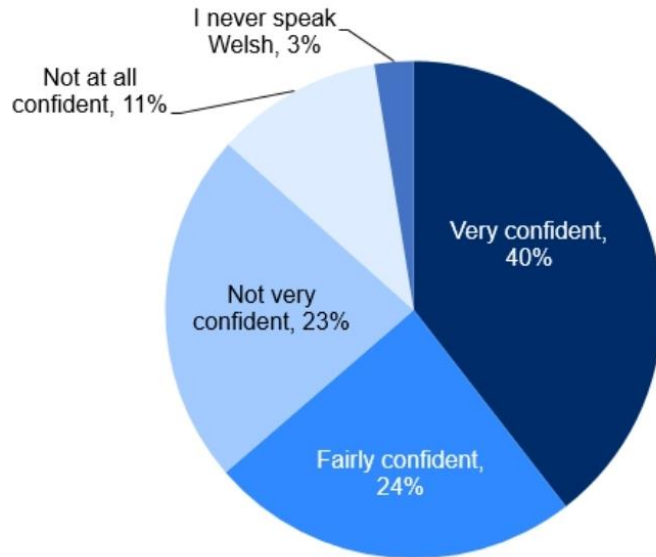
Chart 4: Percentage of the population aged three or older who speak Welsh by fluency level, July 2019 to March 2020 (Revised)



Source: Welsh Language Use Survey 2019-20

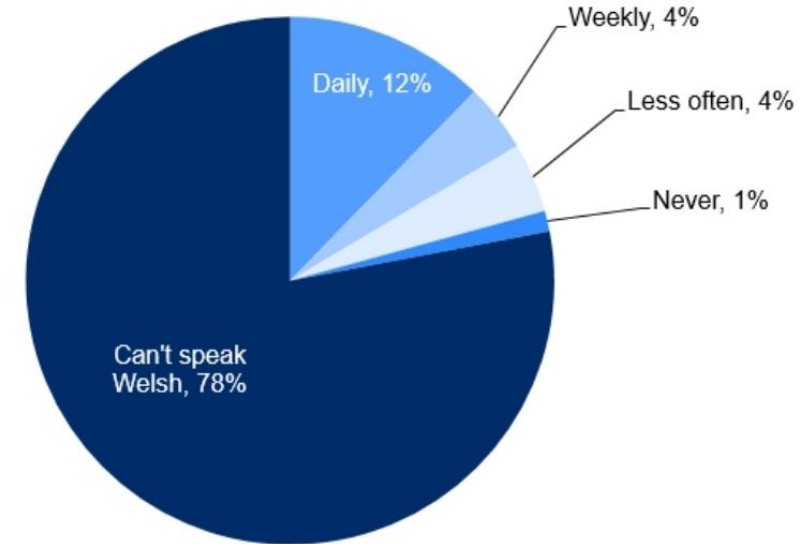
How many people speak Cymraeg in Cymru?

Chart 10: Confidence of Welsh speakers aged 16 or older when speaking the language, July 2019 to March 2020



Source: Welsh Language Use Survey 2019-20

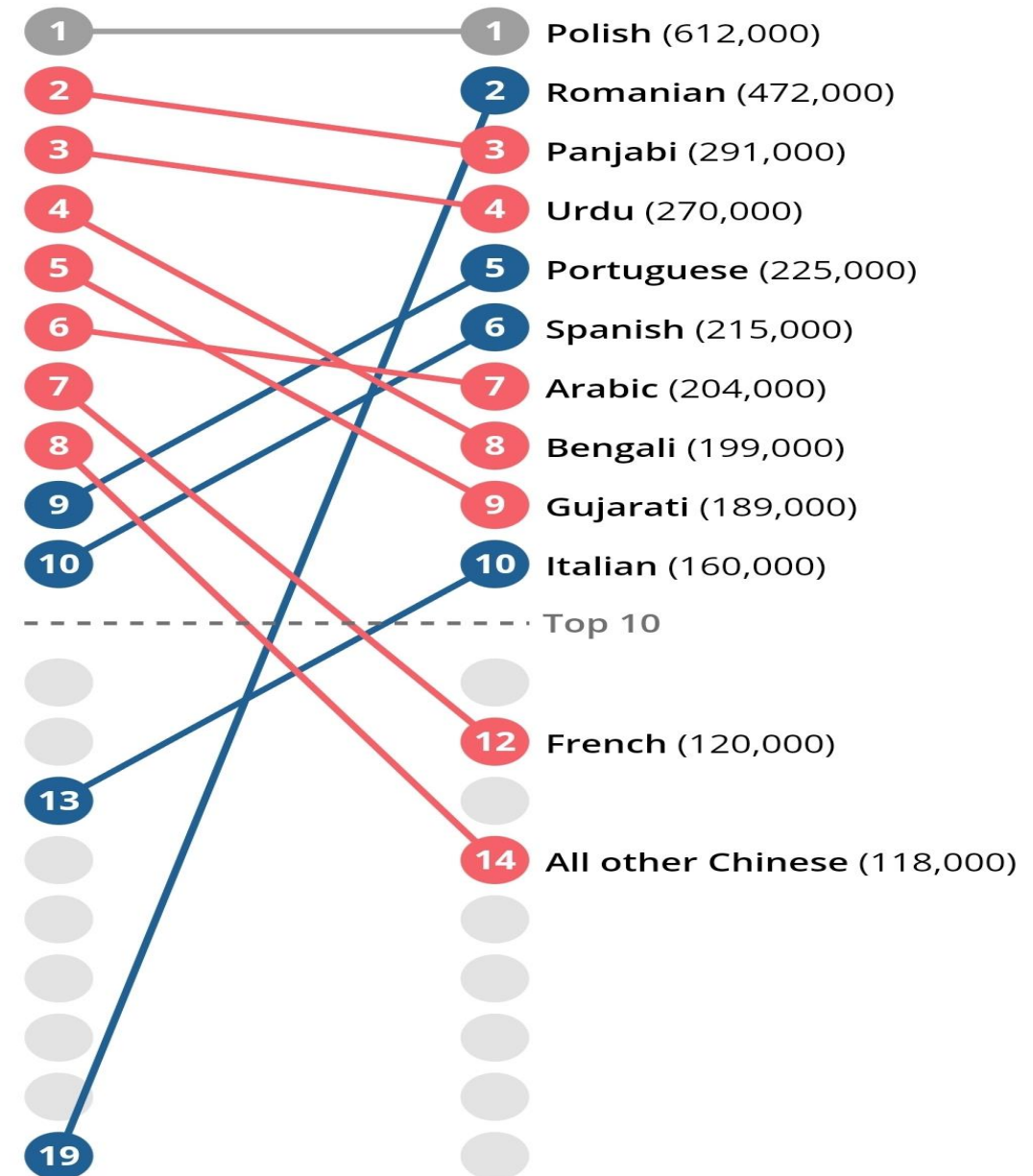
Chart 1: Frequency of speaking Welsh amongst the population aged three or older, July 2019 to March 2020



Source: Welsh Language Use Survey 2019-20

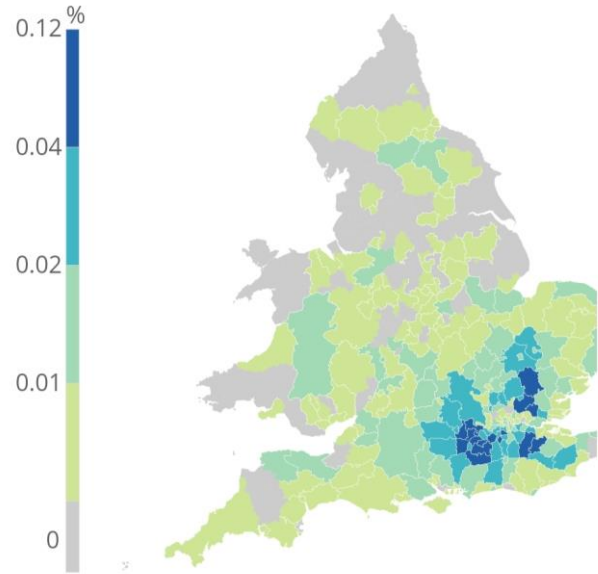
What languages are spoken in Cymru?

Total usual resident population, aged three years and over, who speak each language as their main language, 2011 and 2021, England and Wales



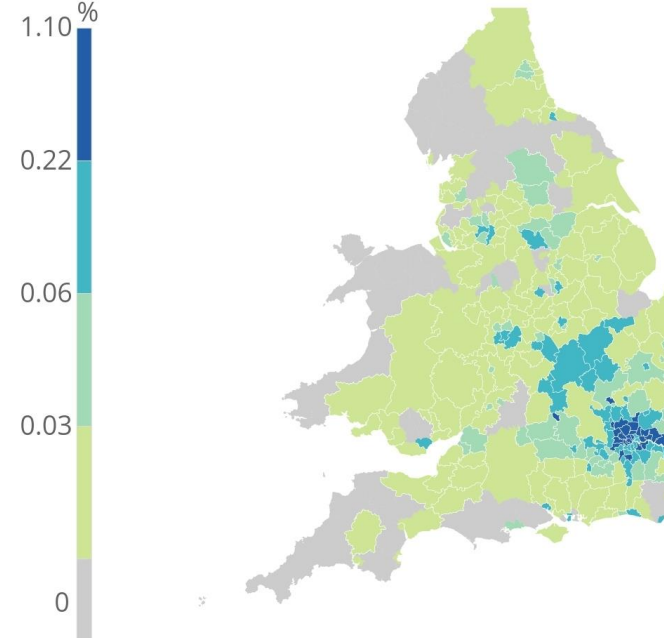
What languages are spoken in Cymru?

Afrikaans

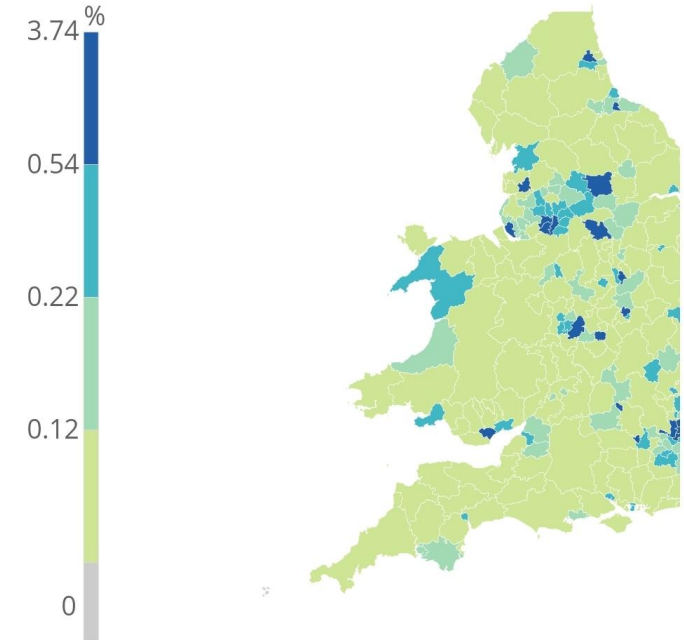


Source: Office for National Statistics - Census 2021

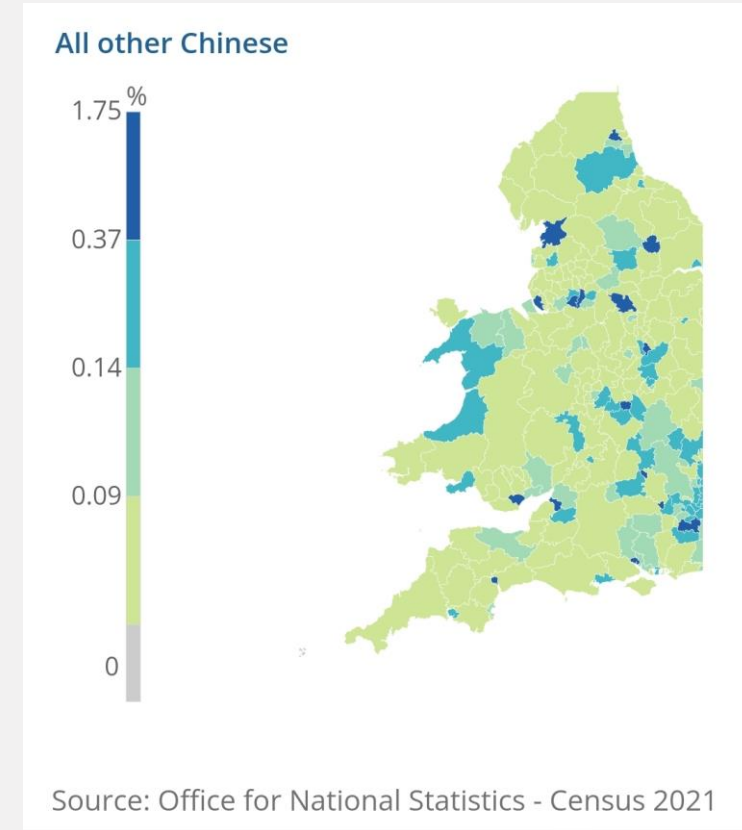
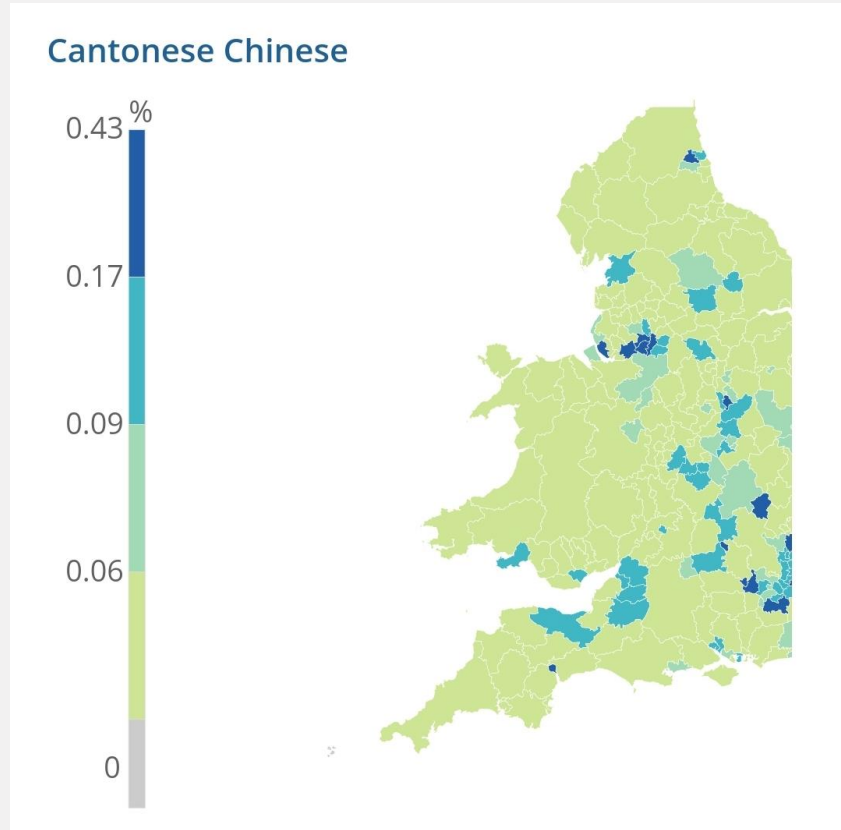
Albanian



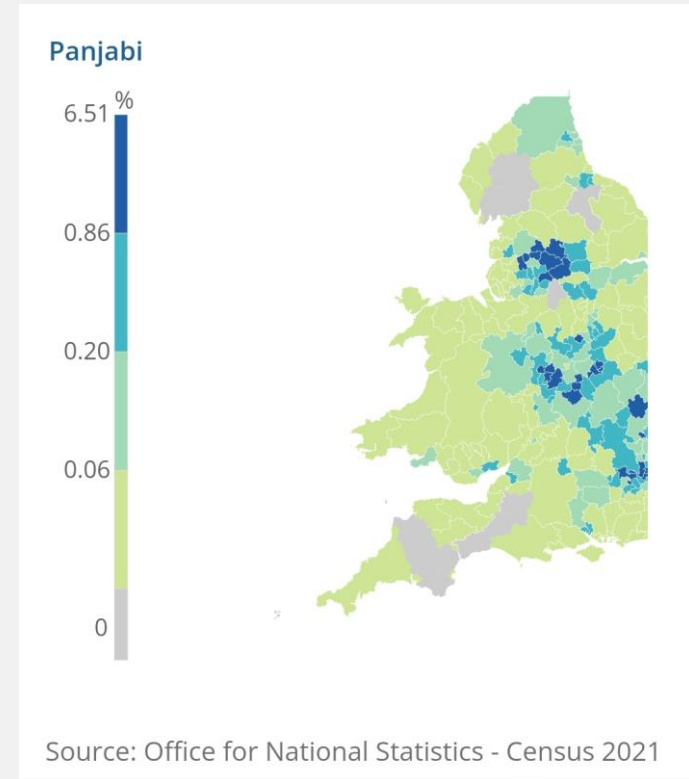
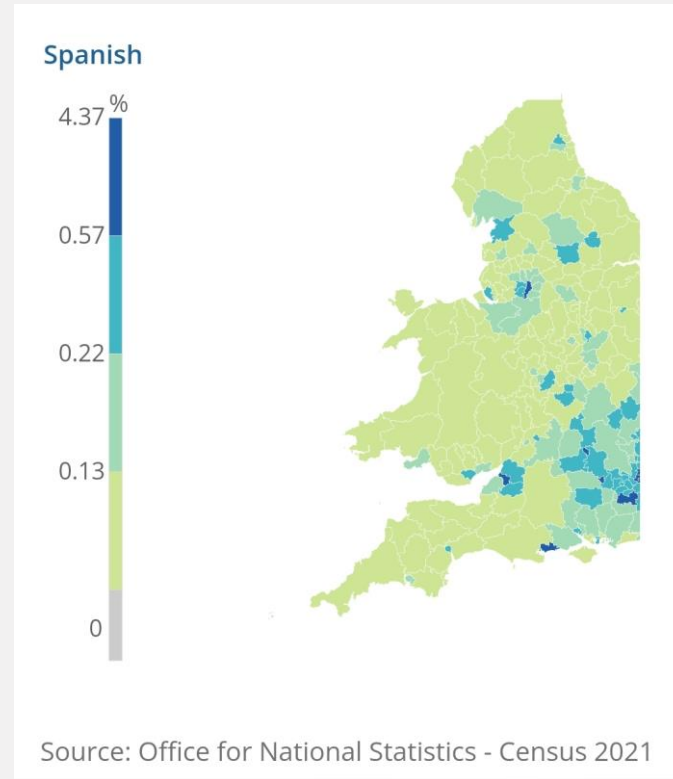
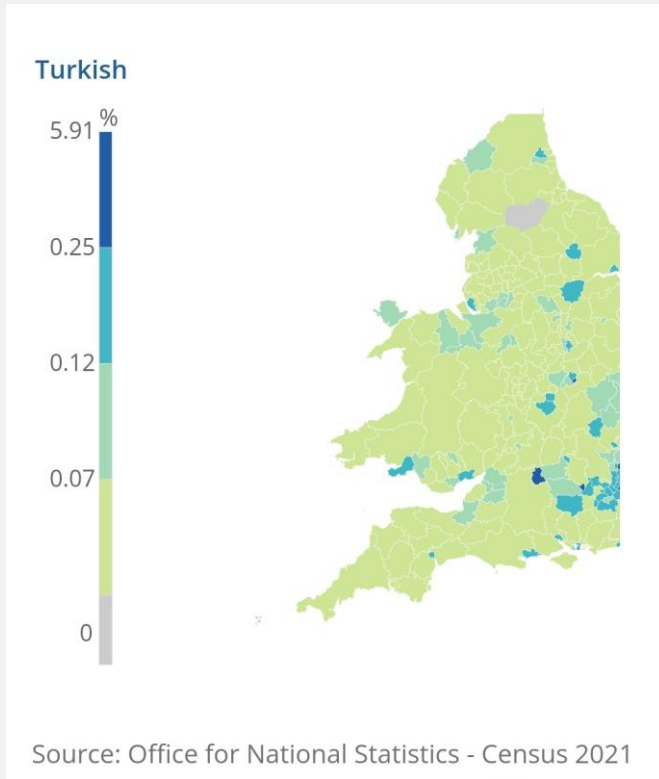
Arabic



What languages are spoken in Cymru?



What languages are spoken in Cymru?



What languages are spoken in Cymru?

Main languages, other than English (English or Welsh in Wales)

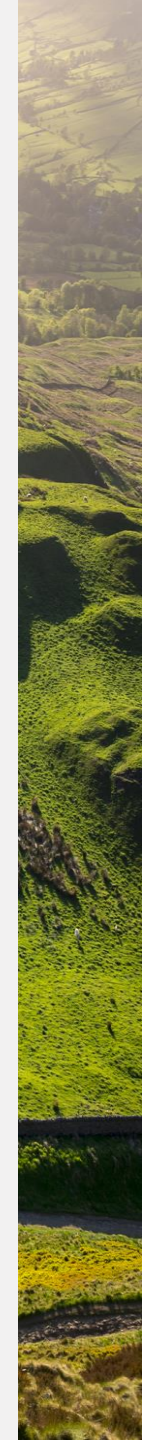
Polish remained the most common main language accounting for 1.1% (612,000) of usual residents, for those who do not have English (English or Welsh in Wales) as a main language.

In 2021, Romanian moved into the top 10 main languages, excluding English (English or Welsh in Wales). This was the largest increase over the decade. In total, 0.8% of people (472,000) listed Romanian as their main language, up from 0.1% (68,000) in 2011. This mirrors a similar increase in the number of people who listed Romania as their country of birth between 2011 and 2021 (an increase between censuses of 459,000, or a 0.8 percentage point change). It also mirrors an increase in the number who chose only a Romanian national identity (an increase between censuses of 405,000, or a 0.7 percentage point change).

The most common main languages, other than English or Welsh, in Wales

As in 2011, Polish was the second most common language after English or Welsh in Wales (0.7%, 21,000). The Welsh local authority with the highest proportion of people that had Polish as a main language remained as Wrexham (2.5%, 3,000).

Arabic was the next most common main language in Wales (0.3%, 9,000). The Welsh local authority with the highest proportion of people that had Arabic as a main language was Cardiff (1.4%, 5,000).



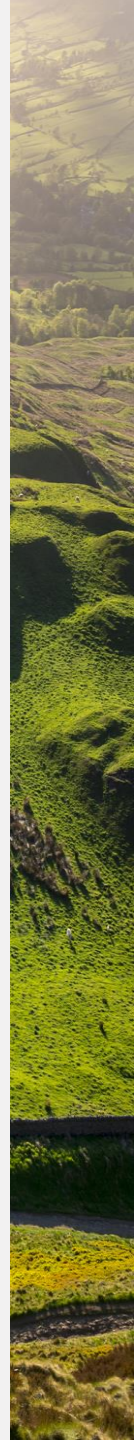
What languages are spoken in Cymru?

3. Main languages varied across England and Wales

English (English or Welsh in Wales) as a main language

The percentage of people who spoke English (English or Welsh in Wales) as their main language was higher in Wales (96.7%, 2.9 million out of 3.0 million) than it was in England (90.8%, 49.7 million out of 54.7 million).

In Wales, people were asked if their main language was anything other than English or Welsh. Therefore, it is not possible to determine how many people in Wales consider Welsh to be their main language. There was a separate question for people in Wales asking them about their Welsh language ability. On 6 December 2022, the Welsh Government will be publishing information on Welsh language skills in Wales.



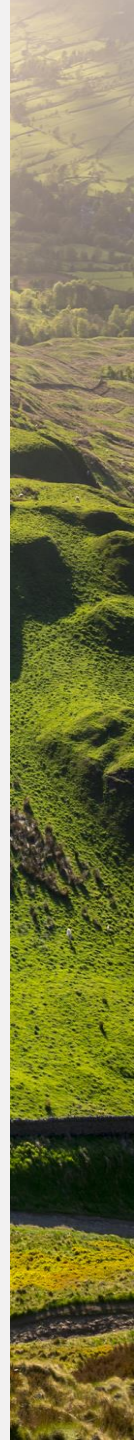
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English as the Bridge of Universal Communication

By Priyanka Salwa Putri Pandey – October 6, 2021

In today's world, multilingualism, or the ability to speak and understand multiple languages, is becoming more important. Out of about 6,500 spoken languages around the world, more and more people dedicate their time to study English as their second language. Countries like Sweden, Denmark, Netherlands, and France include English in their school syllabus, which allows students to learn English at a young age. But what is the real reason behind why you should learn English? Why is English important, especially for our future?

First off, English is the language of international communication. Most people consider English as a global language because it is the one language that is mostly spoken and understood by the majority of people. Data statistics reveal that more than a quarter of the world's population speaks English, which means about 1.6 billion people understand and relate to this language. According to the British Council, by 2020 about 2 billion people in the world will be studying English. Therefore, it is likely that you will be able to communicate in English with people from different parts of the world. In other words, it provides you a path to the world and allows you to communicate and interact with global citizens.



English is also the language of science, the aircraft industry, computers, foreign policy, and tourism. Understanding English can help increase the chances of getting recruited by a multinational company within your country or when finding work abroad. Being able to speak English opens up a wide range of career and life opportunities. The ability to negotiate successfully with future clients who speak English makes your skillset more attractive to international companies, which means that employees who speak English, can often command higher salaries. In addition to that, understanding a foreign language like English will show other employers that you're a dedicated and hardworking person.

IMAGE CREDITS: FOCUSREZA.COM

Can removing opportunities from bilingual/Multilingual artists harm Cymraeg usage in Cymru in the future? And how else can Cymru become inclusive?

Written Statement: Progress
Towards Wales becoming a
Nation of Sanctuary (18
June 2019) | GOV.WALES

This combined effort in Wales has not gone unnoticed. In May, NBC News published an insightful article about our ambition in Wales to become a nation of sanctuary, which focused on the lives and experiences of refugees and asylum seekers. It explored the challenges faced by people seeking sanctuary and also the appreciation for the welcome they have received in Wales. The article offered a refreshing angle when compared to the hostility we have grown accustomed to seeing in the media.

A music festival is reviewing whether to change its motto over fears the Welsh language phrase could be deemed racist.

Llangollen International Eisteddfod's motto "Byd gwyn fydd byd a gano. Gwaraid fydd ei gerddi fo," is from a verse by the poet T Gwynn Jones meaning "Blessed is a world that sings. Gentle are its songs."

The problem, recently realised, is that gwyn means blessed but is Welsh for “white”, too.



Irish female folk dancers during the celebrations | CREDIT: Howard

Pimborough / Alamy Stock Photo



Izzy Rabey tweeted that she and Eädyth Crawford would pull out of the festival unless the language policy was changed for invited acts.

She said they would be meeting the board to discuss how the Eisteddfod could be more inclusive.

The National Eisteddfod said it would respond to the artist personally.

Diversity: Does the National Eisteddfod reflect modern Wales?

🕒 6 August 2022



National Eisteddfod



Maggi Noggi, S4C presenter and drag queen has praised the diversity of the event

How was Shazia's first Eisteddfod experience?



Shazia met Maggi Noggi on The Maes

It was my first time at the National Eisteddfod, and I was overwhelmed at the sights and sounds.

Every corner of The Maes was buzzing with music, dance and some form of wacky and wonderful performance art.

It was an amazing representation of Welsh culture, but for me, having lived my whole life in south Wales, Welsh life has always been a myriad of cultures and identities, made up of people who feel Welsh - whether they speak the language or not.

Welsh Language is of course the integral facet of the Eisteddfod, a space that celebrates the language that has a history of fighting to survive - as have many minority and marginalised communities.

I agree with Maggi Noggi who said the fight for Welsh culture to survive, makes us a people who are inclusive.

And people at the Eisteddfod are definitely patient with English speakers, or those of us with a primary school level of Welsh.

Mas ar yr Maes is proof that events like this are embracing all types of people in Wales, but there is always room to go further in representing that people of colour are just as proud of being Welsh as anyone else.

And with everything else that should make us a modern nation; making things accessible for people with disabilities should be at the centre of planning.

Leena Sarah Farhat, who is from an Asian background and is 24, said she believed there was further work to do when it comes to including minority communities.



Leena is frustrated people assume she cannot speak Welsh

"As a woman of colour I am treated differently to the other people working on my stall," she said.

"It is strange because people will come to you assume that you don't speak Welsh, I do and I work through the medium of Welsh, and that can be quite alienating. So I'm really glad to see a lot of diversity in the musical acts and the stages on the Eisteddfod."



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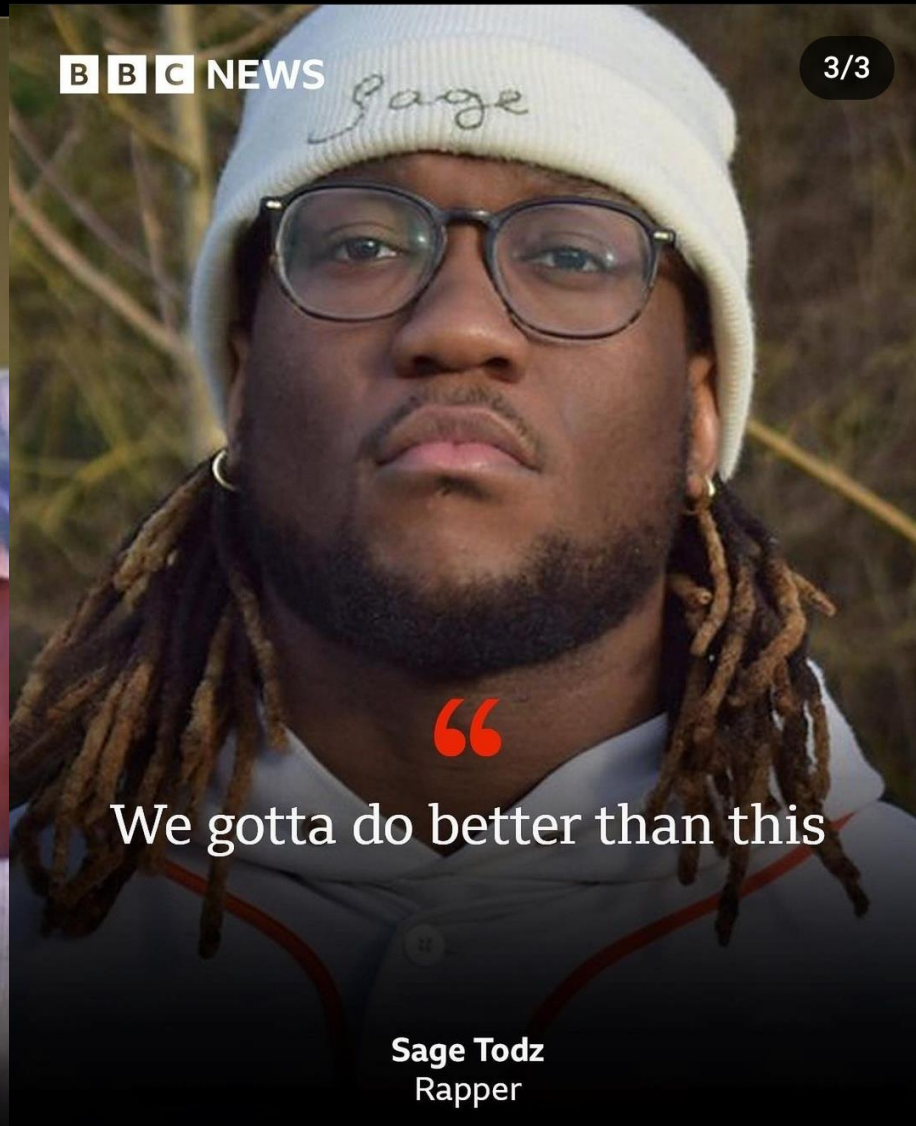
S4C apologises for mixing
up rappers Sage Todz and
Mace the Great

BBC NEWS



Mace the Great

BBC NEWS



3/3

“

We gotta do better than this

Sage Todz
Rapper



News ▶ North Wales News ▶ Black Communities

Welsh artists 'racially abused' in 'toxic' twist to Eisteddfod language debate

Cyngor Gwynedd's Plaid Cymru Cabinet group condemned the bile directed at 'fantastic ambassadors' for Cymraeg like rapper Sage Todz who won't be performing at Maes B this year

NEWS By [Harri Evans](#) Senior Reporter
17:32, 27 JUN 2023

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38% Scandinavian

Irish, Scottish, Welsh



Conclusion



Stick to promises

Conclusion



Stick to promises



Reflect Cymru to protect Cymraeg

Conclusion

- ➡ Stick to promises
- ➡ Reflect Cymru to protect Cymraeg
- ➡ **Plan, be humble, VIVA LA REVOLUTION**

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