

## The position of the Welsh Language today





Around 43% of the world's population is bilingual.

Almost 20% of the world's population is multilingual.



How many of you can speak more than one language?
If so, what are they?



If you can speak more than one language, how does that make you feel?



If you only speak one language, would you like to be able to speak more than one language? Why?



What could the advantages of bilingualism be, in your opinion?



Bilingual people tend to be able to focus more easily on a range of tasks at the same time (multitasking).

Bilingual people tend to be more flexible, sensitive and creative (cognitive skills).



Bilingual people tend to have a better ear for other languages and learn additional languages more easily.

Speaking two languages provides more career opportunities and can increase your chances of getting a job.



Speaking two languages gives you another skill to put on your CV or job application form.

Research shows that bilingualism delays the onset of Dementia and other symptoms of Alzheimer's disease later in life.



Bilingual people tend to show more empathy than those who only speak one language.

Speaking two languages broadens your horizons and can open doors to more than one culture, history, identity and community.



Being able to switch confidently from one language to another nurtures confidence and a sense of pride in the individual.

Speaking more than one language can offer more study options

– e.g. a wider choice of college or university courses.



Speaking more than one language helps people to be more open-minded and show more appreciation and tolerance for other cultures and backgrounds.

Bilingual people tend to get better results in intelligence tests.



People who speak two languages tend to do better when working under pressure.

Speaking more than one language offers a wider range of social activities.



Bilingual people are often better communicators in both languages.

A bilingual person can communicate with a wider range of people than someone who only speaks one language.



Speaking two languages increases your opportunities to socialise and make friends.

Speaking two languages improves your concentration and memory.



Research shows that bilingual people have lower levels of stress than people who only speak one language.

Bilingualism improves your understanding of how language works (i.e. grammar etc.).



Being bilingual offers more opportunities in terms of hobbies and interests.

Speaking two languages improves, rather than limits, your opportunities.



On average,
one language
dies somewhere in the
world every 14 days.

Two languages every month.

24 languages every year.

Around half of the 7,000 minority languages spoken around the world will have died by the turn of the next century.





The Welsh
language is one of
the oldest living
languages in Europe.

What needs to be done to protect and strengthen the language?



## 2021 Census

a small increase in the percentage of people who are able to speak Welsh amongst the young adult age groups (16 to 19 years and 20 to 44 years).



#### However...

the percentage of the population aged 5 to 15 years who stated that they can speak Welsh fell between 2011 and 2021, from 40.3% in 2011 to 34.3% in 2021, a decrease of 6.0 percentage points.

The **biggest decrease** in any age group.



538,000 of the Welsh population aged over 3 years old (17.8% of the total population) reported that they are able to speak Welsh - a decrease of around 23,700 people compared to the 2011 Census.





How do these figures make you feel?

Why do you think that **fewer people** in general reported that they can speak Welsh in the **2021 Census** compared to the **2011 Census**?

## 2017

Welsh Government's

# Cymraeg 2050: A Million Welsh Speakers strategy.

- Address the decrease in the number of Welsh speakers in Wales;
- Promote and facilitate the use of Welsh;
- Encourage more people to speak and use their Welsh;
- Reach the target of a million Welsh speakers by 2050.

The Welsh language is one of the treasures of Wales. It is part of what defines us as people and as a nation. Our ambition as Welsh Government is to see the number of people able to enjoy speaking and using Welsh reach a million by 2050.

Cymraeg 2050, Welsh Government



The challenge of achieving a million Welsh speakers by 2050 calls for far-reaching changes. Boundaries need to be pushed and ambitious action taken to enable more people to learn and use Welsh.

> Cymraeg 2050, Welsh Government





# Three themes to achieving the aim of the Welsh Government's Cymraeg 2050 strategy:

- 1 Increasing the number of Welsh speakers.
- 2 Increasing the use of Welsh.
- 3 Creating favourable conditions for speaking and using Welsh.





How many of you here can speak, or understand, some Welsh?

If you can speak some Welsh, how much of it do you use in your everyday life? Where? And with who? Do you make as much use of your Welsh as you could?

If not, why?



If you don't speak any Welsh, do you wish that you could? Why? How would your life be different if you could speak Welsh, in your opinion?



Do you think that
Welsh Government's
Cymraeg 2050
strategy is important?
Why?



A large number of organisations in Wales have a role to play in helping to achieve the Welsh Government's aim of reaching a million Welsh speakers by 2050, and the Welsh Language Commissioner is one of those.

Shwmae?



Helô





#### However...

The Welsh language **belongs** to everyone in Wales.

Protecting the Welsh language is not down to **one individual** or **organisation**.

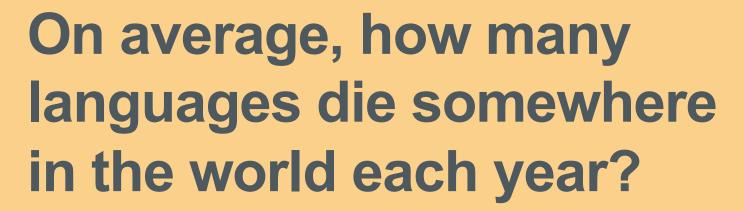
We all have a responsibility to help and play our part in order to ensure the future of the language, whether we speak Welsh or not.

# 

Around what percentage of the global population is bilingual?

43%







24 – 1 every 14 days



Can you think of three advantages of being bilingual?

See the statements on slides **7 to 17** 



In the 2021 Census, what percentage of the total population of Wales aged over 3 years old reported that they can speak Welsh?

17.8%



The aim of Welsh **Government's A Million** Welsh Speakers strategy is to reach a million Welsh speakers by which year?



