

CFA16 Dysgu Cymraeg Morgannwg

Senedd Cymru | Welsh Parliament

Pwyllgor Diwylliant, Cyfathrebu, y Gymraeg, Chwaraeon, a Chysylltiadau Rhyngwladol |
Culture, Communications, Welsh Language, Sport, and International Relations Committee

Cymraeg i bawb? | Cymraeg for all?

Ymateb gan: Dysgu Cymraeg Morgannwg | Evidence from: Dysgu Cymraeg Morgannwg

1. What are the main barriers that prevent wider use of the Welsh language in areas with fewer Welsh speakers, and what might help to change this?

Negative attitude towards the language

Welsh speakers automatically use English

Welsh speakers have lost confidence

Insufficient opportunities for Welsh speakers to use the language

2. What sort of spaces and opportunities might encourage greater use of, and increase confidence in, the use of the language in areas where day-to-day use of the language is limited?

Organisations facilitating bilingual events by ensuring that staff are able to speak Welsh

More Welsh language centres – there is only one in the Morgannwg area, namely in Merthyr

More funding to organise events for learners

Conversation schemes in every town

Local shops and major retailers providing bilingual services

Restaurants where Welsh is spoken

Bilingual sports / coaching

Welsh language events, such as the Eisteddfod, coming to the area

Local business managers learning Welsh and releasing their staff to learn too

Confidence-boosting lessons in the workplace for speakers who received some of their education through the medium of Welsh

3. Can you share examples of successful initiatives or activities that have encouraged Welsh language use in areas where use of the language is limited?

Conversation scheme – pairing Welsh speakers with learners

The ‘Hapus i Siarad’ scheme – local shops promoting use of the language.

The Eisteddfod coming to Pontypridd

The Eisteddfod’s legacy programme – establishing conversational Welsh sessions and face-to-face lessons in the community – grant from the National Centre for Learning Welsh

4. What sort of spaces and opportunities might encourage greater use of, and increase confidence in, the use of the language in areas where day-to-day use of the language is limited?

Creating internet-based conversation opportunities

Duolingo

Attending online classes to boost confidence

Digital resources provided by the National Centre for Learning Welsh

5. What impact, in your view, do cultural events such as national Eisteddfodau or Welsh language festivals have on Welsh language use, particularly in areas with fewer Welsh speakers?

Incredible – an increase in the number of learners who are eager to learn Welsh so that they can use it on the *maes*.

An increase in the number of learners who wish to achieve fluency quickly by joining more intensive courses.

Welsh language speakers who have moved away but wish to return to the area for the Eisteddfod.

Learners wishing to compete in the Eisteddfod

County council promoting use of the language

A positive attitude towards the language

Visitors who speak Welsh

Staff learning Welsh to welcome Welsh-speaking visitors

6. How might these events (whether large or small in size) be adapted or improved to better serve communities with fewer Welsh speakers

Organise more Welsh language events in popular places such as parks / sports fields, as well as concerts in local stadia.

7. Are there any other matters you would like to draw to the Committees attention about the Welsh Government's approach to supporting the Welsh language in areas with fewer Welsh speakers?

Thank you for raising this matter so that we can better understand the challenges. This work will help to forge a more positive future for the Welsh language and its use.
