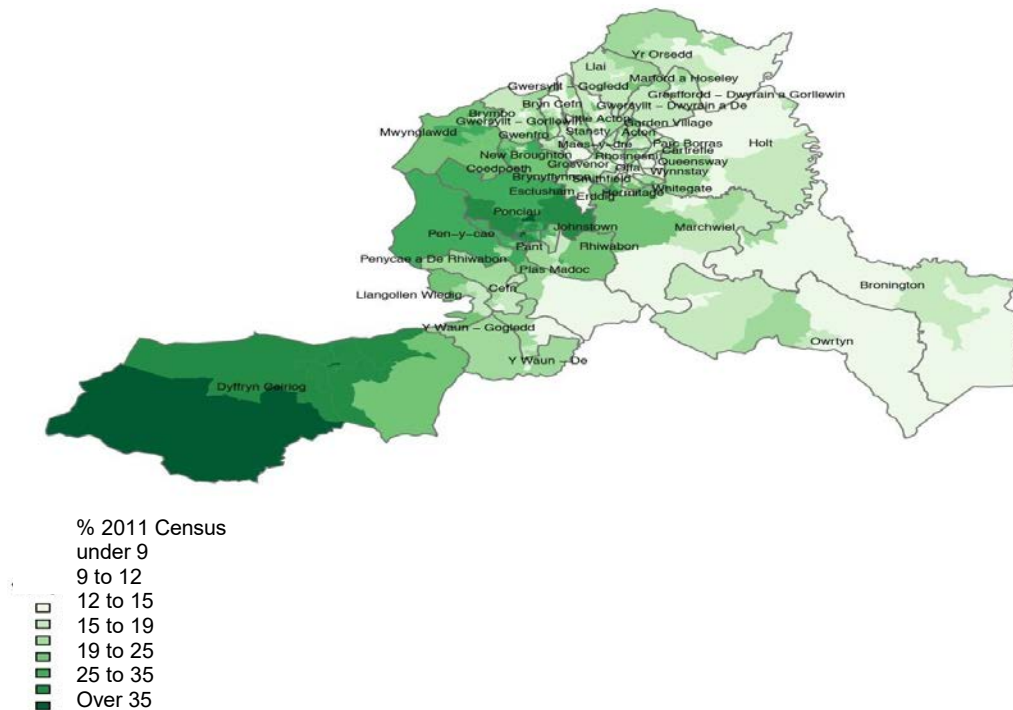


The Welsh Language in Wrexham County Borough

1. The 2011 Census results show that 16,659 people in the County of Wrexham are able to speak Welsh, which corresponds to 12.9% of the population. The total number who were able to speak Welsh in 2001 was 18,102, or 14.4% of the population. Over a period of ten years there has been a decrease of 1,443 in the number of Welsh speakers in the county, a fall of 1.7%.
2. The 2011 Census data reveals that the largest percentages of Welsh speakers live in the electoral divisions of Ceiriog Valley (31.2%), Ponciau (28.2%) and Pant (26.6%). The electoral wards with the lowest percentages of Welsh speakers are Wynnstay (7.7%), Cartrefle (8.3%), Smithfield (8.3%), Rossett (8.5%) and Overton (8.5%). The map below shows the geographical distribution of Welsh speakers in the County of Wrexham according to percentages.

Wrexham

Table: Welsh-language Skills
(Able to speak Welsh)



3. The map shows that the most Anglicised areas are situated along the border with England and in parts of the town of Wrexham and its environs.
4. The electoral division with the greatest number of Welsh speakers, 1,298, is Ponciau (which includes the village of Rhosllannerchrugog). The second highest is the ward of Coedpoeth with 825 Welsh speakers and, thirdly, Ceiriog Valley with 661 Welsh speakers.

5. The table below shows the electoral divisions where the highest and lowest percentages of Welsh speakers are to be found in the County of Wrexham:

Electoral Division	% of Welsh Speakers 2011
Highest	
Ceiriog Valley	31.2
Ponciau	28.2
Pant	26.7
Penycae	19.6
Coedpoeth	18.3
Minera	17.7
Lowest	
Queensway	8.6
Overton	8.5
Rossett	8.5
Cartrefle	8.3
Smithfield	8.3
Wynnstay	7.7

6. The 2011 data shows that there are 8 electoral wards in the county where there are more than 500 Welsh speakers. As noted above, the ward of Ponciau is home to the greatest number by far, with Coedpoeth in second place.

Electoral Division	Number of Welsh Speakers
Ponciau	1,298
Coedpoeth	825
Ceiriog Valley	661
Cefn	550
Johnstown	515
Llay	506
Gwersyllt East & South	506
Brymbo	504

7. Between 2001 and 2011, there was a small increase in the number and percentage of Welsh speakers in the 10 electoral divisions in the county.

Electoral Division	Increase in the number of Welsh speakers	Percentage change of Welsh speakers
Gwersyllt East & South	91	+1.2%
Gwersyllt North	64	+1.6%
Gwersyllt West	10	+0.9%
Holt	112	+1.3%
Little Acton	28	+1.5%
Llay	18	+1.5%
Marford & Hosely	1	+0.6%
New Broughton	56	+1.0%
Rossett	23	+0.9%
Whitegate	2	+1.3%

8. Overall, there was a small increase in the number of Welsh speakers since 2001 in 15 electoral divisions (from a total of 47), with the largest increase in Holt (+112), followed by Gwersyllt East & South (+91) and Gwersyllt North (+64). Each of the three wards in the Gwersyllt area saw an increase in the number and percentage of Welsh speakers between 2001 and 2011.
9. Unfortunately, the greatest decrease in terms of the number and percentage in the electoral divisions was significantly greater than the county average of 12.9%. For example, there were 328 fewer Welsh speakers in the ward of Ponciau (-9.2%), 117 in Cefn (-3.1%), 115 in Pant (-5.4%) and 108 in Ceiriog Valley (-3.1%) than in 2001.

The Distribution of Welsh speakers according to Age

10. As in the rest of the counties of the north-east, the ability to speak Welsh in the County of Wrexham differs greatly according to age. As the table below shows, according to the 2011 Census over 26% of children aged 3-15 are able to speak Welsh.

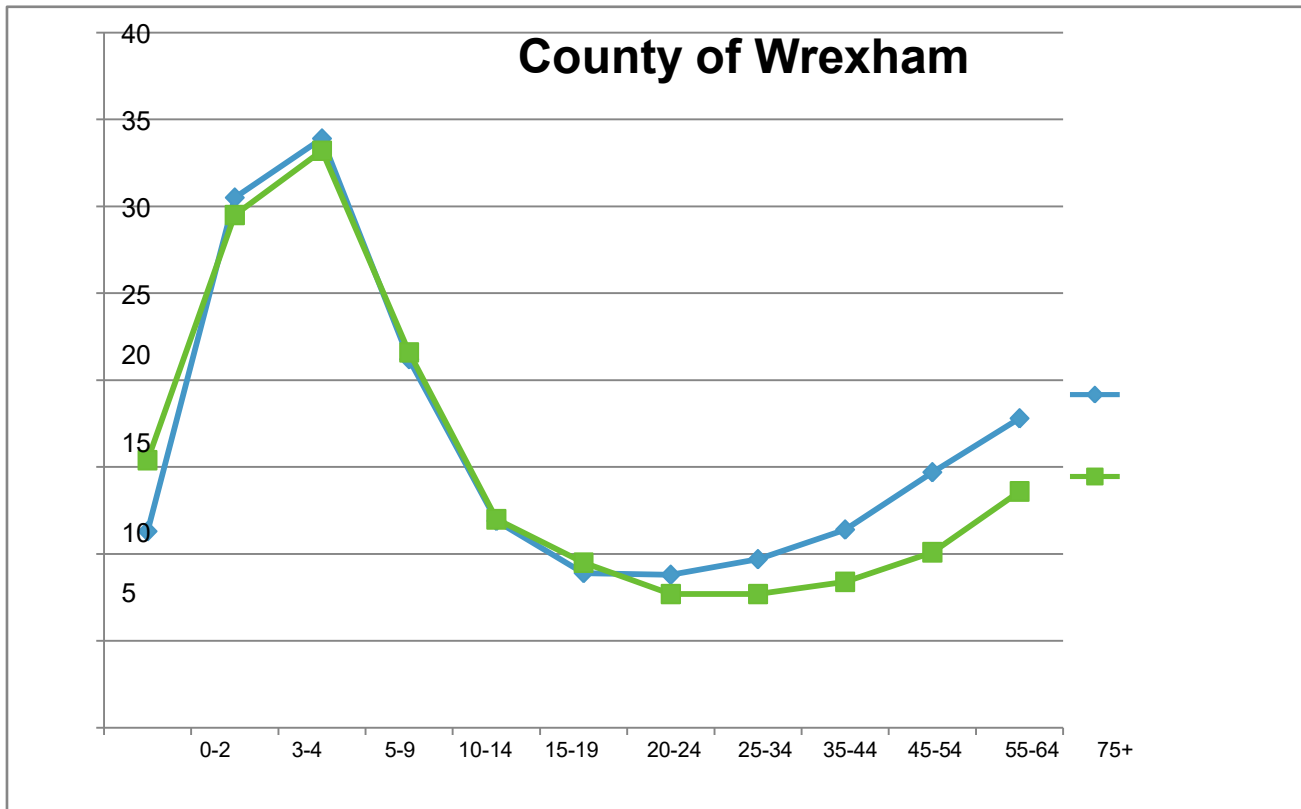
Unfortunately this figure falls to 14.6% in the 15-30 age-group and is lower in the 30-50 age group (7.9%). The lowest percentages of Welsh speakers are to be found in the 30-50 and 50-70 (8.5%) age-groups.

11. The 70+ age-group scored slightly higher with 12.6% recorded as being able to speak Welsh. Unsurprisingly, the highest percentages are to be found in the 4-15 age-group. This probably reflects the influence of the education system on the linguistic skills of school-age children.

The County of Wrexham

Age-group	% of Welsh speakers 2001	% of Welsh speakers 2011	Number of Welsh speakers 2001	Number of Welsh speakers 2011
All aged over 3 yrs	14.6	12.9	18,105	16,659
3-4 yrs	11.3	15.4	344	526
5-9 yrs	30.5	29.5	2,417	2,246
10-14 yrs	33.9	33.2	2,822	2,565
15-19 yrs	21.2	21.6	1,724	1,737
20-24 yrs	11.9	12.0	931	1,012
25-29 yrs	9.2	10.3	728	911
30-34 yrs	8.5	8.6	813	709
35-39 yrs	8.4	7.7	812	680
40-44 yrs	9.1	7.6	791	756
45-49 yrs	9.0	7.6	774	740
50-54 yrs	10.4	7.8	975	671
55-59 yrs	11.2	7.8	881	644
60-64 yrs	11.6	8.9	751	789
65-69 yrs	14.2	9.5	797	675
70-74 yrs	15.2	10.6	779	574
75-79 yrs	16.9	12.3	747	523
80+ yrs	18.7	14.8	1,019	901

12. As in all of the counties of the north-east, there has been an increase in the number and percentage of children aged 3-4 who speak Welsh. The increase of +3.1% means that there are 182 additional Welsh speakers in this age-group than in 2001 (545 compared with 332). Once more, it is likely that this reflects the work of the Mudiad Meithrin and TWF (now disbanded and replaced by Cymraeg in Blant) who try to encourage greater use of the language in the home.
13. However, the percentage of Welsh speakers in the 5-15 age-group is not as high as that recorded in 2001. There has been a small decrease in the percentage over a period of ten years, from 28.5% to 28.1%.
14. There has also been a decrease in the number who can speak Welsh in the same age- group since 2001, from 6,963 to 6,548.
15. As has been seen in other counties, and as the graph below shows, the increase in the percentage and number of Welsh speakers in the 10-14 age-group does not extend from decade to decade. For example, the 33.9% who were able to speak Welsh in the 10-14 age-group in 2001 has more than halved by 2011, and has declined to 12% in the 20-24 age-group. As has been noted in the analysis of the other counties in the north-east, it is likely that the main factors which account for this decline are the absence of the school as a positive influence and the lack of opportunities for young people to use their language skills in the community or workplace.



16. Note the similarity between the two lines from 2001 to 2011. The decrease in terms of percentages in the 10-14, 15-19 and 20-24 age-groups is almost exactly the same. Unless acts of deliberate and targeted interventions take place, the likelihood is that the 2012 line will follow the same downward trend.
17. The decline in the percentage of Welsh speakers in the 70+ age-group, from 16.9% to 12.6% is noted with sadness. The number of Welsh speakers in the 70+ age-group has fallen from 2,545 to 1,998, a loss of 547 speakers. The decline is greater in the 80+ age-group which strongly indicates that indigenous Welsh speakers are slowly disappearing from the county. As the population ages, the likelihood is that the 2021 line will tail off more evenly.
18. The fact that 9.6% are able to speak Welsh in the 20-40 age-group, which is significantly lower than the percentage of Welsh speakers in the county as a whole (12.9%), does not bode well for the future. This is of course the age-group which would be likely to raise families and be in a position to transmit the language to their children.

Language Transmission in the Home

19. As a county with a relatively stable population, which has not been significantly affected by in-migration of people born outside Wales, it is reasonable to conclude that one of the factors which is largely responsible for the decline of the language in this particular part of Wales is the failure to transmit the language in the home. In a county with such a rich industrial history where there were once traditional Welsh-speaking communities it would be easy to conclude that the lack of status afforded to the language over the generations and the mindset that English is the more important language in terms of economic value lie at the heart of the recent linguistic retreat.

20. The number of children who are able to speak Welsh in the County of Wrexham in households where two adults are Welsh-speaking has fallen from 59 to 48 since 2001 – this is probably due to demographic factors as the proportion of language transmission is higher as noted below.
21. The number of single- parent households where the lone parent is Welsh-speaking has increased from 13 to 38.
22. However the most heartening fact is that the number of children who can speak Welsh in two-parent households where one adult speaks Welsh has increased from 75 in 2001 to 141 in 2011
23. The rate of language transmission in households where there are two Welsh-speaking adults has increased from 69.4% to 80%, which is slightly lower than the national rate of 82%.
24. Although language transmission rates are higher than they were ten years ago in households with a couple, one of whom is Welsh-speaking (from 25.8% to 40.4%) and in single-parent households where the adult is Welsh-speaking (from 28.3 to 43.7%), these rates continue to be lower than the national rates of 45% and 53% respectively

Education

Nursery Education

The Mudiad Meithrin is mainly responsible for providing Welsh-medium nursery education in the County of Wrexham. The Mudiad currently has 9 playgroups (*Cylchoedd Meithrin/Meithrin Mwy*) and 12 *Ti a Fi* (baby and toddler groups) across the county.

Ti a Fi (Baby and Toddler Groups)

Glyn Ceiriog	Summerhill
Maes y Gornel, Rhos	Hightown
Min y Ddôl	Gwersyllt
Brynteg	Brymbo
Pencae	Coedpoeth
Llay	Saith Seren, Wrexham

Cylchoedd Meithrin/Meithrin Mwy (Playgroups)

Glyn Ceiriog	ID Hooson, Rhos
Min y Ddôl*	Maes y Gornel, Rhos
Pant, Rhos*	Hillstreet, Wrexham
Coedpoeth	Summerhill
Bro Alun*	

*(Provided by the 'Flying Start' Programme)

25. As shown above, Mudiad Meithrin provides a wide range of baby and toddler groups (*Ti a Fi*) and playgroups (*cylchoedd Meithrin/Meithrin Mwy*) across the county.

Primary Education

26. In the County of Wrexham, there are 7 Welsh-medium primary schools and one dual stream school in the Ceiriog Valley. There are 52 English-medium primary schools in the county.

Welsh-medium Schools

Cefn Mawr (Ysgol Min y Ddôl)
Coedpoeth (Ysgol Bryn Tabor) Rhos (Ysgol I.D Hooson) Wrexham (Ysgol Bodhyfryd) Wrexham (Ysgol Plascoch) Wrexham (Ysgol Bro Alun)
Llanarmon Dyffryn Ceiriog (Ysgol Llanarmon)

Dual Stream School

Ysgol Cynddelw, Ceiriog Valley

27. The transfer rates from the Welsh-medium primary schools to Ysgol Morgan Llwyd are almost 100% every year.

Secondary Education

28. There is one Welsh-medium secondary school in the county, namely Ysgol Morgan Llwyd which provides Welsh-medium education for pupils aged between 11 and 18 in the county. There are over 800 pupils in the school at present, but it is predicted that this number will increase to some 1200 over the next decade as the demand for Welsh-medium education increases.
29. Ysgol Morgan Llwyd has been implementing an immersion scheme for a number of years which enables pupils to transfer from the English-medium sector at the end of Key Stage 2 (aged 11) to the Welsh-medium sector. Over the past three years, 15 pupils on average have taken advantage of this scheme and gained knowledge of the language to the extent that they are now studying subjects for their GCSEs and A levels through the medium of Welsh.
30. The 2011 Census reveals that 33.2% of young people aged 10-14 in the County of Wrexham are able to speak Welsh. However, the reality is that only 8.9% were assessed in Welsh as their first language at the end of Key Stage 3. The difference between the Census data and data held by the Education Department is 24%. It is evident that parents (non-Welsh speakers mainly) are misrepresenting the linguistic ability of their children, which means that the Census results are very misleading. It is likely that the situation of the Welsh language in the County of Wrexham, as in the other counties of the north-east, is far worse than it would appear in the decennial Census results.

Further Education: Coleg Cambria

31. Following the merger between Deeside College and Yale College on 1 August 2013, a new Welsh Language Scheme was developed for the new combined college, namely Coleg Cambria. According to the Welsh Language Scheme, Coleg Cambria is wholly committed to promoting bilingualism and the culture and heritage of Wales and is extremely pleased to be a truly Welsh organisation in north-east Wales.
32. It is one of the largest colleges in the UK, employing over 1,600 staff with over 7,000 full-time students and 20,000 part-time learners, and has international links across four continents.
33. The college operates from four campuses, three in Wrexham and the others in Connah's Quay, Northop and Llysfasi. The college serves a large area which includes three local authorities with a population of almost 400,000, representing over 12% of the population of Wales.
34. The college attracts students from three Welsh-medium secondary schools, namely Ysgol Morgan Llwyd, Ysgol Maes Garmon and Ysgol Glan Clwyd as well as a number of bilingual schools including Ysgol Dinas Brân, Ysgol Brynhyfryd and Ysgol y Berwyn.
35. Coleg Cambria offers a number of Welsh-medium/bilingual courses. The medium of education varies from one course to another but a large proportion of the following courses are taught through the medium of Welsh:-
 - Child Care
 - Health and Social Care
 - Public Services
 - Employment Skills
 - Hairdressing and Beauty Therapy
 - Car Mechanics
 - Building
 - Agriculture
 - Welsh BaccaLaureate Qualification

Welsh for Adults

36. The Welsh for Adults Centre - North Wales is responsible for co-ordinating the provision for learners on every level in the counties of Conwy, Denbighshire, Flintshire and Wrexham. The centre has very wide provision in every county which seeks to respond to the varied needs of learners in terms of levels, locations, times and methods of teaching.
37. The number of learners who registered for courses on different levels in the County of Wrexham during 2013-14 is shown below. As is to be expected perhaps, the vast majority have registered for Entry and Foundation level courses. On the basis of these figures, around one-third of the learners progress from the Foundation level to the Intermediate level. The progression from Intermediate to Higher and Proficiency levels is low – less than 10%.

Level	County of Wrexham
Entry	364
Foundation	434
Intermediate	149
Higher	12
Proficiency	7

38. A Welsh Learners' Group (*Clwb Dysgwyr Ardal Wrecsam – DAW*) was established in Wrexham in September 2010. The Club presently has between 50 and 60 learners and meets once a month to enjoy various activities which provide an opportunity for them to practise their Welsh in an informal and light-hearted atmosphere.
39. The Welsh for Adults Centre – North Wales works closely with the Welsh Learners' Group (DAW) to organise social events for learners in the County of Wrexham. These events are an opportunity for learners and Welsh speakers to come together to use the language in an informal setting.

Language/Social Organisations

Urdd Gobaith Cymru

40. The Urdd offers a good level of provision in the County of Wrexham, including clubs in schools, divisions (*adrannau*), higher-divisions (*uwch adrannau*), *aelwydydd*, sports clubs and performing arts clubs. The Urdd has 641 members in the Wrexham area with 80 of these in the secondary school sector.
41. In addition to organising weekly events in various parts of the county, the Urdd organises local Eisteddfodau at '*cyloch*' (district) and county level, sports competitions, events in schools, all sorts of workshops, trips and visits to the Urdd camps or *gwersylloedd*.
42. The Urdd works very closely with Welsh-medium and English-medium schools in the county to provide events which promote the use of the language and raise awareness of the Welsh language.