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Press Release - For immediate release

School Learning Support Staff in Wales Outnumber Teachers

New data published by the Education Workforce Council (EWC) has revealed that there are now more learning support staff than teachers registered to work in maintained schools in Wales.

Of the over 80,000 people eligible to work in schools, further education, work-based learning and youth work settings in Wales, over 37,325 are registered for school support roles compared to 35,545 for school teacher roles. This highlights the changing nature of Welsh classrooms and how our children are educated.

Statistics also show that the education workforce in Wales is mainly female, with over 80% of school staff and over 60% in other settings being women.

The age profile of the school and youth work workforce is balanced, with around three quarters of staff under the age of 50. In contrast, the further education and work-based learning workforce is older, with 45% of registered college lecturers aged 50 and over.

The ability of school teachers (33.3%) to speak Welsh exceeds census figures (19%). However, figures in further education colleges and work-based learning are below the census. This shows the challenges ahead if Wales is to meet its aspiration of one million Welsh speakers by 2050.

EWC Chief Executive, Hayden Llewellyn said:

“This is the first time such extensive intelligence has been available about the whole of the education workforce in Wales. The data raises interesting questions for policy makers and workforce planning as we move towards a new curriculum, greater focus on the Welsh language, and other major reforms”.

ENDS

Notes for Editors

1. Any person working in a teaching and learning role in Wales in schools, further education, work-based learning or youth work must be registered with the Education Workforce Council (EWC).
2. The Annual Statistics Digest 2019 can be found at www.ewc.wales or for more information, email statistics@ewc.wales. Detailed information on the education workforce covering a range of characteristics such as age, gender, ethnicity, qualifications and Welsh language ability is featured in the Digest.