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Tel: 029 2046 0099

E-mail: media@ewc.wales

Website: www.ewc.wales

Twitter: [@ewc_cga](https://twitter.com/ewc_cga)

Press Article

Support staff numbers approach parity with teachers in Wales

The Education Workforce Council has published its annual statistics digest, which represents a unique source of information about registered school and further education teachers in Wales. For the first time, it includes valuable new data on learning support workers.

School and FE learning support workers have only been registered with EWC from 1 April 2016, and data shows that there are around 31,500 staff in schools and 2,700 in FE colleges assisting our teachers and lecturers. This means that the number of support staff in Welsh schools is now reaching one for one with teachers.

The school workforce is predominantly female, with women accounting for 75% of school teachers and 89% of learning support staff. Although still high, the gender split in FE colleges is less distinct, with women accounting 59% of FE lecturers and 67% of learning support staff.

Around 75% of school teachers and learning support staff are under the age of 50. In contrast, the FE workforce is more mature with 57% of FE teachers and 61% of learning support workers under 50.

The percentage of Welsh speaking school teachers (33%) exceeds the percentage of Welsh speakers living in Wales (23%).

In English, Maths and Welsh over 70% of school teachers trained in the secondary subject they teach and in the foundation subjects around 80% of practitioners are trained in the secondary subjects they teach.

Chief Executive of the Education Workforce Council, Hayden Llewellyn, said: "These statistics provide important intelligence about the Welsh education workforce. In expanding the register to cover school and FE learning support workers for the first time, we are gaining vital information in Wales that will influence policy making and recognise the important work these practitioners do.

"Wales is the first country to do this and we look forward to presenting more data now that youth workers and work-based learning practitioners are also required to register."

You can read the full statistics digest by visiting our website, ewc.wales.

Ends