

Data Insight: School Learning Support Workers Qualifications 2025



Mae'r ddogfen hon hefyd ar gael yn Gymraeg

School learning support workers highest level of qualification held

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The Education Workforce Council (EWC) is the independent, professional regulator for the education workforce in Wales. All data included in this summary is derived from the EWC Register of Education Practitioners and relates specifically to school learning support workers.

In this insight, we will breakdown various characteristics of school learning support workers by highest level of qualification held.

Introduction to the Education Workforce Council's school learning support workers qualifications Data Insight for 2025

These statistics have been produced using data from the Register of Education Practitioners. The information that we are able to hold on the Register is set out in the Education Workforce Council (Main Functions) (Wales) Regulations 2015, as amended.

The Register is real time and provides a unique source of data about the 13 registered education groups in Wales. No equivalent data is available from any other body or organisation. Consequently, comparison should not be made with other sources such as the Welsh Government School Workforce Annual Census (SWAC), also published annually. For the school sector in particular, unlike SWAC, our data includes all supply staff, peripatetic workers, freelance workers, and others who provide education or training in a school, as well as other education settings. We also hold significant historic data which enables us to provide trend information.

The statistics in this report are based on the following criteria:

- registrant numbers are recorded as actuals, rather than full-time equivalent
- the census date used for the data taken from the Register is 1 March each year
- where a registrant has more than one employment record on the Register (e.g. school teacher in a school and a further education teacher in a college) the relevant employment information is recorded in each category they are registered in
- the information recorded on the Register is obtained directly from the practitioner and/or their employer
- percentages may not total 100 due to rounding

Education Workforce Council (2025). School learning support workers qualifications Data Insight for 2025. Available at: (Accessed: 'insert date').

1. School learning support workers highest level of qualification held

1.1 Five-year trend - Highest level of qualification held

Includes subject specific qualifications, qualifications in another subject, teaching/assessing qualification for example, all qualifications listed on a registrant's record. Levels based on the Credit and Qualifications Framework for Wales (CQFW).

Table 1.1: Five-year trend - Number of registered school learning support workers by highest level of qualification held.

	2021		2022		2023		2024		2025	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Level 8	76	0.2	91	0.2	123	0.2	93	0.2	84	0.2
Level 7	5,633	14.6	6,713	15.8	7,941	16.1	6,199	13.2	5,616	12.2
Level 6	5,634	14.6	6,183	14.5	7,367	14.9	7,091	15.1	6,987	15.2
Level 5	649	1.7	813	1.9	967	2.0	1,002	2.1	953	2.1
Level 4	1,690	4.4	1,726	4.1	2,015	4.1	2,017	4.3	1,891	4.1
Level 3	1,653	4.3	2,291	5.4	3,551	7.2	3,924	8.4	4,460	9.7
Level 2	968	2.5	1,677	3.9	3,115	6.3	3,581	7.6	4,124	9.0
Level 1	58	0.1	91	0.2	144	0.3	163	0.3	185	0.4
Other*	22,307	57.7	23,000	54.0	24,157	48.9	22,892	48.7	21,587	47.0
Total	38,668	100	42,585	100	49,380	100	46,962	100	45,887	100

*Other level includes those who have no qualification recorded, no relevant qualification or if the level of qualification cannot be determined from the information provided by either the registrant or employer.

1.2 Gender

Table 1.2: Number of registered school learning support workers by highest level of qualification held and gender 2025

	Female		Male		Not specified	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Level 8	48	0.1	33	0.5	3	25.0
Level 7	4,273	10.9	1,339	20.1	4	33.3
Level 6	5,529	14.1	1,454	21.9	4	33.3
Level 5	754	1.9	199	3.0	0	0.0
Level 4	1,754	4.5	137	2.1	0	0.0
Level 3	3,624	9.2	836	12.6	0	0.0
Level 2	3,510	8.9	613	9.2	1	8.3
Level 1	161	0.4	24	0.4	0	0.0
Other*	19,572	49.9	2,015	30.3	0	0.0
Total	39,225	100	6,650	100	12	100

1.3 Age

Table 1.3: Number of registered school learning support workers by highest level of qualification held and age 2025.

	Under 30		30 to 39		40 to 49		50 to 59		60+	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Level 8	6	0.0	13	0.1	34	0.4	21	0.3	10	0.3
Level 7	2,062	14.1	1,368	13.5	1,091	12.0	728	8.7	367	10.1
Level 6	3,123	21.4	1,675	16.6	1,162	12.7	729	8.7	298	8.2
Level 5	223	1.5	254	2.5	212	2.3	157	1.9	107	2.9
Level 4	165	1.1	449	4.4	490	5.4	560	6.7	227	6.2
Level 3	2,960	20.3	522	5.2	493	5.4	332	4.0	153	4.2
Level 2	2,126	14.6	887	8.8	614	6.7	367	4.4	130	3.6
Level 1	50	0.3	23	0.2	28	0.3	52	0.6	32	0.9
Other*	3,892	26.6	4,927	48.7	4,998	54.8	5,450	64.9	2,320	63.7
Total	14,607	100	10,118	100	9,122	100	8,396	100	3,644	100

1.4 Ethnic group

The data below is provided in an aggregate format to prevent the disclosure of registrants. The ethnic group options as detailed on the Register of Education Practitioners can be found on the [Government Analysis function website](#).

Table 1.4: Number of registered school learning support workers by highest level of qualification held and ethnic group 2025.

	White		Mixed/Multiple ethnic groups		Asian/Asian British		Black/African/Caribbean/Black British		Other ethnic group		Does not wish to record ethnic group		Unknown	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Level 8	54	0.1	2	0.3	14	0.8	6	0.7	7	1.6	1	0.2	0	0.0
Level 7	4,822	13.3	86	14.5	348	19.5	158	18.4	55	12.5	80	14.1	67	1.2
Level 6	5,606	15.5	131	22.0	554	31.0	417	48.5	126	28.6	96	17.0	57	1.1
Level 5	837	2.3	11	1.8	27	1.5	33	3.8	8	1.8	18	3.2	19	0.4
Level 4	1,289	3.6	10	1.7	16	0.9	4	0.5	3	0.7	24	4.2	545	10.1
Level 3	3,991	11.0	99	16.6	186	10.4	47	5.5	47	10.7	43	7.6	47	0.9
Level 2	3,844	10.6	70	11.8	111	6.2	29	3.4	40	9.1	24	4.2	6	0.1
Level 1	170	0.5	1	0.2	5	0.3	3	0.3	3	0.7	3	0.5	0	0.0
Other*	15,635	43.1	185	31.1	525	29.4	162	18.9	151	34.3	277	48.9	4,652	86.3
Total	36,248	100	595	100	1,786	100	859	100	440	100	566	100	5,393	100

1.5 National identity

Table 1.5: Number of registered school learning support workers by highest level of qualification held and national identity 2025.

	Welsh		British		English		Scottish, Irish or Northern Irish		Other		Does not wish to record national identity		Unknown	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Level 8	22	0.1	30	0.2	2	0.1	0	0.0	28	1.1	2	0.6	0	0.0
Level 7	2,904	13.6	1,711	12.8	304	11.4	40	19.7	522	20.2	63	18.7	72	1.3
Level 6	3,194	14.9	2,200	16.5	367	13.8	36	17.7	1,049	40.6	74	22.0	67	1.2
Level 5	463	2.2	340	2.5	62	2.3	9	4.4	55	2.1	6	1.8	18	0.3
Level 4	840	3.9	344	2.6	114	4.3	5	2.5	28	1.1	15	4.5	545	10.2
Level 3	2,479	11.6	1,496	11.2	257	9.7	18	8.9	136	5.3	27	8.0	47	0.9
Level 2	2,065	9.6	1,657	12.4	276	10.4	16	7.9	93	3.6	10	3.0	7	0.1
Level 1	85	0.4	69	0.5	18	0.7	1	0.5	11	0.4	1	0.3	0	0.0
Other*	9,347	43.7	5,495	41.2	1,259	47.3	78	38.4	664	25.7	139	41.2	4,605	85.9
Total	21,399	100	13,342	100	2,659	100	203	100	2,586	100	337	100	5,361	100

1.6 Phase

Table 1.6: Number of in service and supply registered school learning support workers by highest level of qualification held and phase 2025.

	Nursery		Primary		Middle		Secondary		Pupil referral unit		Special		Supply	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Level 8	0	0.0	3	0.0	0	0.0	12	0.2	1	0.4	0	0.0	42	0.4
Level 7	3	5.8	586	4.3	64	6.9	558	11.0	11	4.1	111	3.9	2,255	18.9
Level 6	4	7.7	1,051	7.7	94	10.2	719	14.2	33	12.3	280	9.7	2,646	22.2
Level 5	1	1.9	200	1.5	19	2.1	158	3.1	4	1.5	50	1.7	276	2.3
Level 4	2	3.8	1,065	7.8	51	5.5	207	4.1	16	6.0	158	5.5	165	1.4
Level 3	3	5.8	758	5.5	85	9.2	392	7.7	26	9.7	175	6.1	1,575	13.2
Level 2	4	7.7	742	5.4	71	7.7	356	7.0	20	7.5	279	9.7	1,390	11.7
Level 1	1	1.9	36	0.3	4	0.4	13	0.3	2	0.7	14	0.5	61	0.5
Other*	34	65.4	9,286	67.6	535	58.0	2,647	52.3	155	57.8	1,805	62.8	3,520	29.5
Total	52	100	13,727	100	923	100	5,062	100	268	100	2,872	100	11,930	100

1.7 Local authority

Table 1.7a: Number of registered school learning support workers by highest level of qualification held (8 to 5) and local authority 2025.

	Level 8		Level 7		Level 6		Level 5	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Blaenau Gwent	0	0.0	25	0.4	27	0.4	5	0.5
Bridgend	0	0.0	55	1.0	102	1.5	24	2.5
Caerphilly	0	0.0	46	0.8	61	0.9	14	1.5
Cardiff	2	2.4	228	4.1	348	5.0	35	3.7
Carmarthenshire	0	0.0	67	1.2	131	1.9	36	3.8
Ceredigion	3	3.6	26	0.5	53	0.8	11	1.2
Conwy	1	1.2	40	0.7	63	0.9	16	1.7
Denbighshire	0	0.0	37	0.7	57	0.8	10	1.0
Flintshire	0	0.0	59	1.1	88	1.3	23	2.4
Gwynedd	0	0.0	34	0.6	67	1.0	18	1.9
Isle of Anglesey	0	0.0	13	0.2	42	0.6	9	0.9
Merthyr Tydfil	0	0.0	15	0.3	40	0.6	13	1.4
Monmouthshire	1	1.2	46	0.8	45	0.6	11	1.2
Neath Port Talbot	0	0.0	42	0.7	94	1.3	27	2.8
Newport	1	1.2	78	1.4	135	1.9	21	2.2
Pembrokeshire	1	1.2	60	1.1	110	1.6	17	1.8
Powys	1	1.2	75	1.3	85	1.2	26	2.7
Rhondda Cynon Taf	1	1.2	74	1.3	104	1.5	27	2.8
Swansea	5	6.0	171	3.0	246	3.5	44	4.6
Torfaen	0	0.0	37	0.7	48	0.7	8	0.8
Vale of Glamorgan	0	0.0	63	1.1	109	1.6	18	1.9
Wrexham	0	0.0	42	0.7	126	1.8	19	2.0
Supply	42	50.0	2,255	40.2	2,646	37.9	276	29.0
Others in service*	5	6.0	166	3.0	224	3.2	33	3.5
Others out of service*	21	25.0	1,862	33.2	1,936	27.7	212	22.2
Total	84	100	5,616	100	6,987	100	953	100

* 'Others in service' includes school learning support worker registrants who are employed by a local authority but the school and phase have not been provided by the relevant local authority. Peripatetic school learning support workers are also included.

* 'Others out of service' includes individuals not employed in a school learning support worker role, independent school learning support workers*, no longer employed in education, or those with no employment recorded.

1.7 Continued

Table 1.7b: Number of registered school learning support workers by highest level of qualification held (4 to 0) and local authority 2025.

	Level 4		Level 3		Level 2		Level 1		Other	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Blaenau Gwent	31	1.6	19	0.4	24	0.6	1	0.5	361	1.7
Bridgend	50	2.6	59	1.3	52	1.3	2	1.1	643	3.0
Caerphilly	102	5.4	52	1.2	51	1.2	2	1.1	697	3.2
Cardiff	159	8.4	174	3.9	162	3.9	6	3.2	1,460	6.8
Carmarthenshire	71	3.8	94	2.1	83	2.0	2	1.1	842	3.9
Ceredigion	35	1.9	31	0.7	19	0.5	3	1.6	288	1.3
Conwy	67	3.5	33	0.7	35	0.8	5	2.7	463	2.1
Denbighshire	57	3.0	40	0.9	43	1.0	4	2.2	463	2.1
Flintshire	104	5.5	59	1.3	88	2.1	6	3.2	805	3.7
Gwynedd	58	3.1	72	1.6	80	1.9	4	2.2	630	2.9
Isle of Anglesey	34	1.8	25	0.6	35	0.8	2	1.1	336	1.6
Merthyr Tydfil	39	2.1	26	0.6	26	0.6	2	1.1	286	1.3
Monmouthshire	55	2.9	35	0.8	28	0.7	0	0.0	291	1.3
Neath Port Talbot	32	1.7	78	1.7	101	2.4	7	3.8	656	3.0
Newport	91	4.8	64	1.4	70	1.7	4	2.2	702	3.3
Pembrokeshire	58	3.1	67	1.5	77	1.9	7	3.8	641	3.0
Powys	65	3.4	51	1.1	52	1.3	2	1.1	624	2.9
Rhondda Cynon Taf	138	7.3	102	2.3	88	2.1	1	0.5	1,095	5.1
Swansea	81	4.3	157	3.5	146	3.5	3	1.6	1,320	6.1
Torfaen	65	3.4	45	1.0	64	1.6	0	0.0	452	2.1
Vale of Glamorgan	64	3.4	89	2.0	63	1.5	1	0.5	643	3.0
Wrexham	43	2.3	67	1.5	85	2.1	6	3.2	764	3.5
Supply	165	8.7	1,575	35.3	1,390	33.7	61	33.0	3,520	16.3
Others in service	33	1.7	66	1.5	119	2.9	3	1.6	513	2.4
Others out of service	194	10.3	1,380	30.9	1,143	27.7	51	27.6	3,092	14.3
Total	1,891	100	4,460	100	4,124	100	185	100	21,587	100

1.8 Priority subject trained

Table 1.8a: Number of registered school learning support workers by highest level of qualification held (8 to 5) and priority subject trained 2025.

	Level 8		Level 7		Level 6		Level 5	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Chemistry	4	21.1	38	5.9	36	7.2	3	7.0
Biology	2	10.5	73	11.4	54	10.7	6	14.0
Physics	4	21.1	20	3.1	33	6.6	0	0.0
Design & Technology	0	0.0	81	12.7	36	7.2	4	9.3
Computer Science & IT	1	5.3	67	10.5	78	15.5	11	25.6
Mathematics	5	26.3	126	19.7	82	16.3	6	14.0
Modern Languages	3	15.8	148	23.2	108	21.5	10	23.3
Welsh Studies	0	0.0	86	13.5	76	15.1	3	7.0
Total	19	100	639	100	503	100	43	100

Table 1.8b: Number of registered school learning support workers by highest level of qualification held (4 to 0) and priority subject trained 2025.

	Level 4		Level 3		Level 2		Level 1		Other	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Chemistry	1	4.8	63	9.0	18	1.5	1	3.7	4	1.5
Biology	3	14.3	220	31.4	73	6.2	1	3.7	19	7.0
Physics	2	9.5	34	4.9	18	1.5	0	0.0	2	0.7
Design & Technology	0	0.0	26	3.7	19	1.6	0	0.0	7	2.6
Computer Science & IT	3	14.3	54	7.7	46	3.9	0	0.0	142	52.0
Mathematics	1	4.8	176	25.1	696	59.3	21	77.8	59	21.6
Modern Languages	2	9.5	66	9.4	26	2.2	1	3.7	19	7.0
Welsh Studies	9	42.9	61	8.7	277	23.6	3	11.1	21	7.7
Total	21	100	700	100	1,173	100	27	100	273	100

1.9 Higher Level Teaching Assistant (HLTA) qualification

A HLTA, or Higher Level Teaching Assistant, qualification is a level 4 qualification that allows experienced teaching assistants to take on more responsibility in the classroom, such as leading whole-class lessons or covering planned teacher absences. It is a nationally recognised status that demonstrates a higher level of expertise and capability to support learning and pupil progress.

Table 1.9: Number of registered school learning support workers by HLTA qualification.

	2021		2022		2023		2024		2025	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
HLTA	1,551	4.0	1,542	3.6	1,761	3.6	1,757	3.7	1,604	3.5
Total school learning support workers	38,668	100	42,585	100	49,380	100	46,962	100	45,887	100

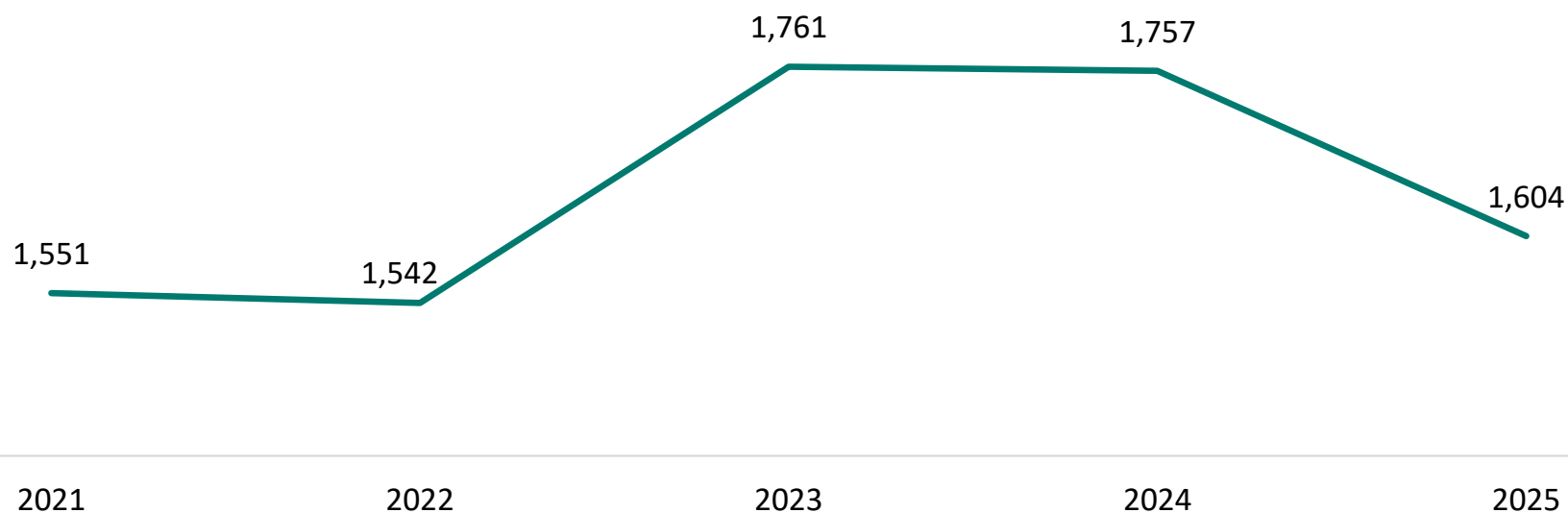


Chart 1: Yearly numbers of those registered as a school learning support worker who have a HLTA qualification.