

Data Insight: Supply School Learning Support Worker 2025



Mae'r ddogfen hon hefyd ar gael yn Gymraeg

Supply school learning support workers in maintained schools

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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 those in supply school learning support worker roles. All data provided relates to school learning support workers registered with the EWC on 1 March 2025. In this insight, we will breakdown various characteristics for all registered supply school learning support workers from either looking over five consecutive reporting years or focusing specifically on data taken in 2025. All statistics in this section were taken on 1 March of each year. All percentages are based on the total number of registered supply within the school learning support worker category for each year.

An important point to note that throughout 'unattached/other' includes those employed in different educational settings (for example, further education colleges, work-based learning settings). Also included are those who do not have a specific agency or local authority listed on their record.

Introduction to the Education Workforce Council's Supply School Learning Support Worker 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
- supply registrants in each volume are only counted once regardless of the number of employers/agencies they undertake supply work for
- the information recorded on the Register is obtained directly from the practitioner and/or their employer
- percentages may not total 100 due to rounding

To cite this article:

Education Workforce Council (2025). Supply School Learning Support Worker Data Insight for 2025. Available at: (Accessed: 'insert date').

Supply school learning support workers in maintained schools

1.1 Number of registered supply school learning support workers

Table 1.1: Number of registered supply school learning support workers compared to all school learning support workers over the last five years.

	2021		2022		2023		2024		2025	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Supply school learning support workers	8,106	21.0	9,063	19.9	11,173	22.6	11,176	23.8	11,930	26.0
School learning support workers not in supply	30,562	79.0	36,522	80.1	38,207	77.4	35,786	76.2	33,957	74.0
All school learning support workers	38,668	100	45,585	100	49,380	100	46,962	100	45,887	100

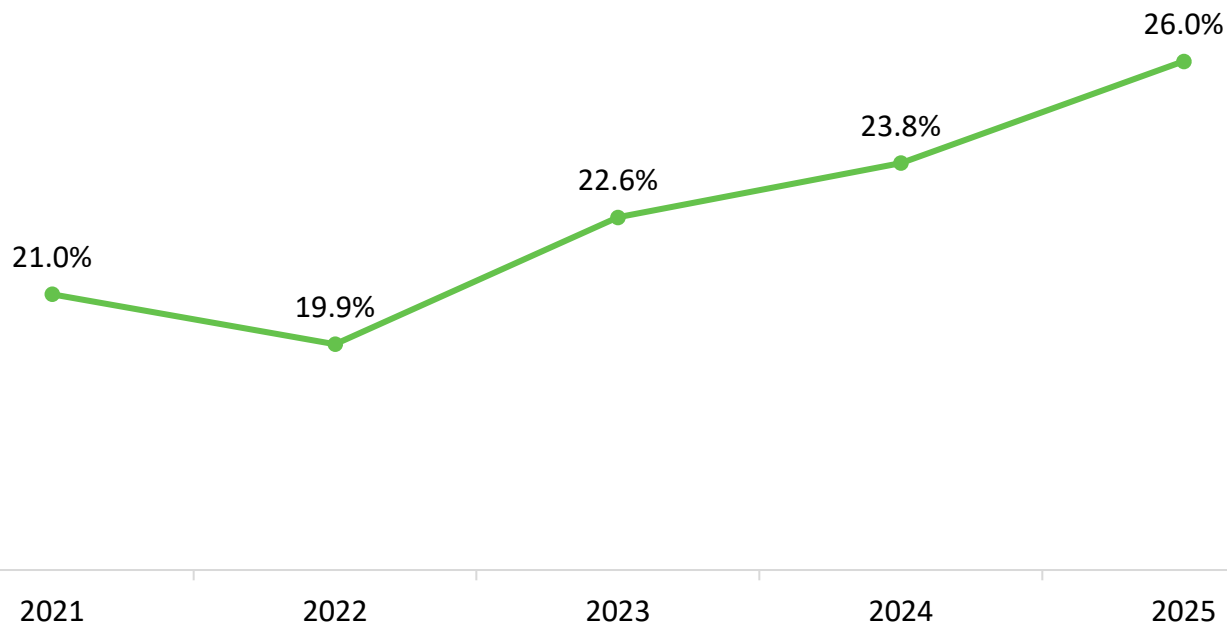


Chart 1: A five year trend showing the percentage of registered supply school learning support workers from 2021 to 2025.

1.2 Gender

Table 1.2a: Gender within supply and non-supply school learning support workers in 2025.

	Supply school learning support workers		Non-supply school learning support workers		All school learning support workers	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Female	9,655	80.9	29,570	87.1	39,225	85.5
Male	2,268	19.0	4,382	12.9	6,650	14.5
Not specified	7	0.1	5	0.0	12	0.0
Total	11,930	100	33,957	100	45,887	100

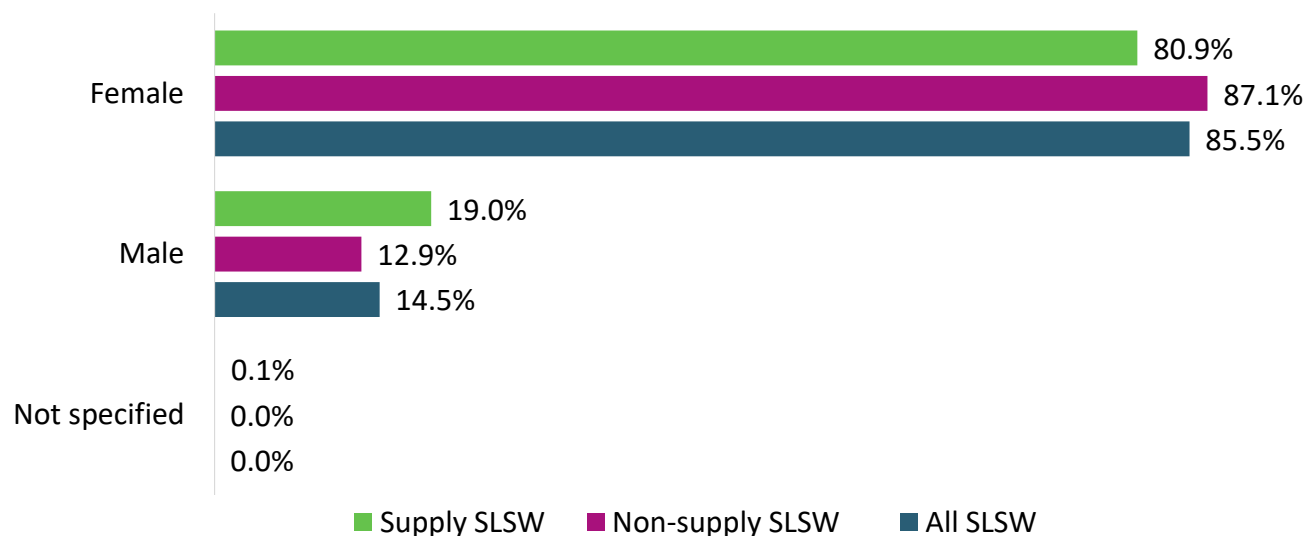


Chart 2: Percentage of gender within supply and non-supply school learning support workers in 2025.

Table 1.2b: Gender of supply school learning support workers by employment in 2025.

	Agency		Local authority		Unattached/other		Total	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Female	8,850	74.2	453	3.8	352	3.0	9,655	80.9
Male	2,093	17.5	86	0.7	89	0.7	2,268	19.0
Not specified	6	0.1	0	0.0	1	0.0	7	0.1
Total	10,949	92.0	539	5.0	442	4.0	11,930	100

1.3 Age

Table 1.3a: Age profile of supply and non-supply school learning support workers in 2025.

	Supply school learning support workers		Non- supply school learning support workers		All school learning support workers	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Under 25	3,932	33.0	5,174	15.2	9,106	19.8
25 to 29	2,010	16.8	3,491	10.3	5,501	12.0
30 to 34	1,309	11.0	3,567	10.5	4,876	10.6
35 to 39	1,134	9.5	4,108	12.1	5,242	11.4
40 to 44	942	7.9	3,905	11.5	4,847	10.6
45 to 49	770	6.5	3,505	10.3	4,275	9.3
50 to 54	600	5.0	3,771	11.1	4,371	9.5
55 to 59	565	4.7	3,460	10.2	4,025	8.8
60 to 64	459	3.8	2,182	6.4	2,641	5.8
65+	209	1.8	794	2.3	1,003	2.2
Total	11,930	100	33,957	100	45,887	100

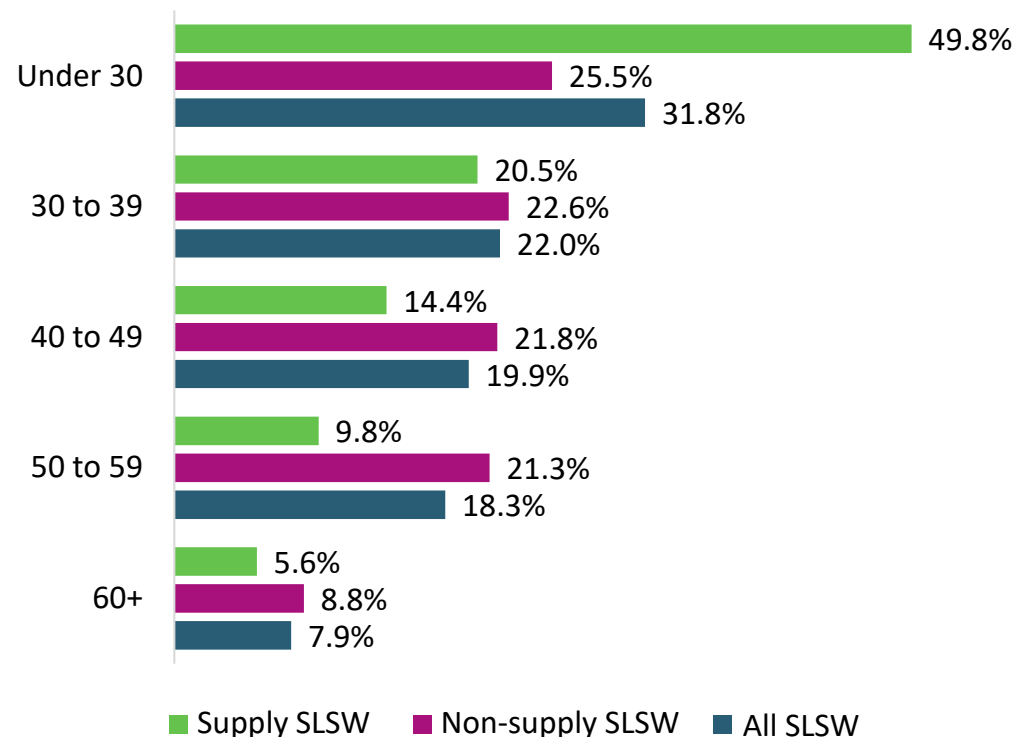


Chart 3: Percentage of age profile of supply and non-supply school learning support workers in 2025.

Table 1.3b: Age profile of supply school learning support workers by employment in 2025.

	Agency		Local authority		Unattached/other		Total	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Under 30	5,527	46.3	249	2.1	166	1.4	5,942	49.8
30 to 39	2,264	19.0	96	0.8	83	0.7	2,443	20.5
40 to 49	1,524	12.8	103	0.9	85	0.7	1,712	14.4
50 to 59	1,033	8.7	59	0.5	73	0.6	1,165	9.8
60+	601	5.0	32	0.3	35	0.3	668	5.6
Total	10,949	92.0	539	5.0	442	4.0	11,930	100

1.4 Ethnic Group

The below data 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 1.4a: Ethnic group of supply and non-supply school learning support workers in 2025.

	Supply school learning support workers		Non-supply school learning support workers		All school learning support workers	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
White	9,986	83.7	26,262	77.3	36,248	79.0
Mixed or multiple ethnic groups	228	1.9	367	1.1	595	1.3
Asian or Asian British	794	6.7	992	2.9	1,786	3.9
Black, African, Caribbean or Black British	504	4.2	355	1.0	859	1.9
Other	193	1.6	247	0.7	440	1.0
Does not wish to record ethnic group	162	1.4	404	1.2	566	1.2
Unknown	63	0.5	5,330	15.7	5,393	11.8
Total	11,930	100	33,957	100	45,887	100

Table 1.4b: Ethnic group of supply school learning support workers by employment in 2025.

	Agency		Local authority		Unattached/other		Total	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
White	9,110	76.4	497	4.2	379	3.2	9,986	83.7
Mixed or multiple ethnic groups	218	1.8	6	0.1	4	0.0	228	1.9
Asian or Asian British	753	6.3	19	0.2	22	0.2	794	6.7
Black, African, Caribbean or Black British	488	4.1	1	0.0	15	0.1	504	4.2
Other	186	1.6	1	0.0	6	0.1	193	1.6
Does not wish to record ethnic group	145	1.2	7	0.1	10	0.1	162	1.4
Unknown	49	0.4	8	0.1	6	0.1	63	0.5
Total	10,949	92.0	539	5.0	442	4.0	11,930	100

1.5 National identity

Table 1.5a: National identity of supply and non-supply school learning support workers in 2025.

	Supply school learning support workers		Non-supply school learning support workers		All school learning support workers	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Welsh	5,343	44.8	16,056	47.3	21,399	46.6
British	4,383	36.7	8,959	26.4	13,342	29.1
English	756	6.3	1,903	5.6	2,659	5.8
Scottish, Irish or Northern Irish	68	0.6	135	0.4	203	0.4
Other	1,207	10.1	1,379	4.1	2,586	5.6
Does not wish to record national identity	100	0.8	237	0.7	337	0.7
Unknown	73	0.6	5,288	15.6	5,361	11.7
Total	11,930	100	33,957	100	45,887	100

Table 1.5b: National identity of supply school learning support workers by employment in 2025.

	Agency		Local authority		Unattached/other		Total	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Welsh	4,813	40.3	334	2.8	196	1.6	5,343	44.8
British	4,076	34.2	148	1.2	159	1.3	4,383	36.7
English	707	5.9	21	0.2	28	0.2	756	6.3
Scottish, Irish or Northern Irish	59	0.5	5	0.0	4	0.0	68	0.6
Other	1,152	9.7	16	0.1	39	0.3	1,207	10.1
Does not wish to record national identity	86	0.7	6	0.1	8	0.1	100	0.8
Unknown	56	0.5	9	0.1	8	0.1	73	0.6
Total	10,949	92.0	539	5.0	442	4.0	11,930	100

1.6 Disability

For the purposes of this release, a person is considered to have a disability if they have a self-reported long-standing illness, condition, or impairment that causes difficulty with day-to-day activities. This definition is consistent with the [Equality Act 2010](#) and the [Government Statistical Service's \(GSS's\) harmonised definition](#).

Table 1.6a: Declaration of disability of supply and non-supply school learning support workers in 2025.

	Supply school learning support workers		Non-supply school learning support workers		All school learning support workers	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Yes	567	4.8	873	2.6	1,440	3.1
No	11,363	95.2	33,084	97.4	44,447	96.9
Total	11,930	100	33,957	100	45,887	100

Table 1.6b: Declaration of disability of supply school learning support workers by employment in 2025.

	Agency		Local authority		Unattached/other		Total	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Yes	522	4.4	20	0.2	25	0.2	567	4.8
No	10,427	87.4	519	4.4	417	3.5	11,363	95.2
Total	10,949	92.0	539	5.0	442	4.0	11,930	100

1.7 Employment by local authority or agency

Table 1.7: Supply school learning support workers' employment type in 2025.

Supply school learning support workers		
	Number	%
Agency	10,949	91.8
Local authority	539	4.5
Unattached / Other*	442	3.7
Total	11,930	100

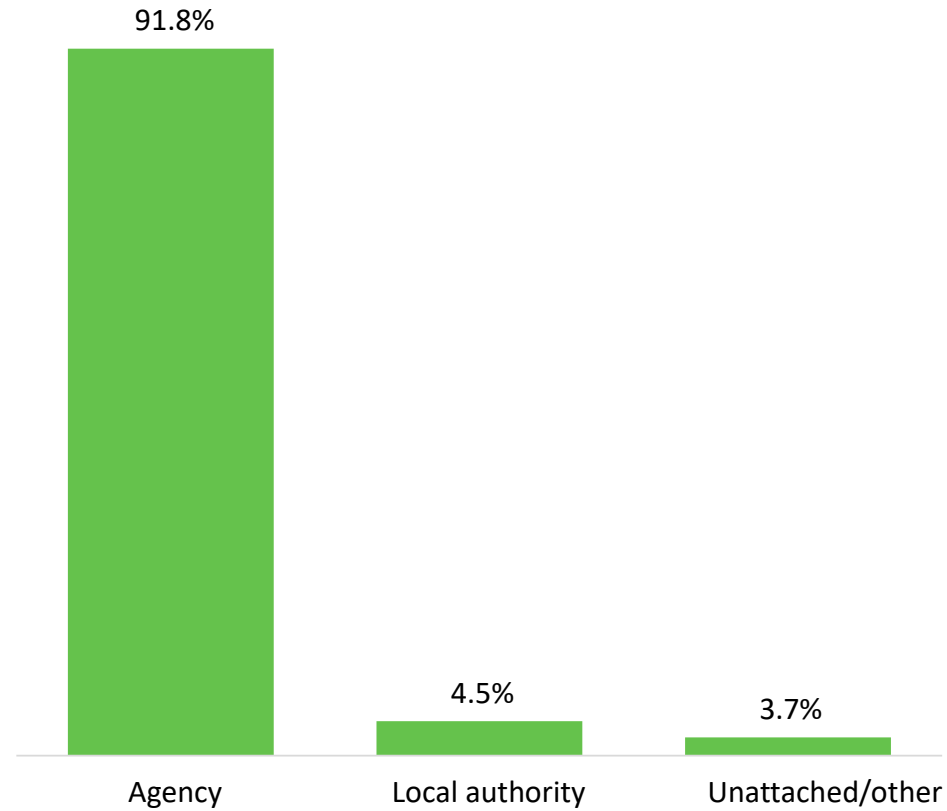


Chart 4: Employment of supply school learning support workers in 2025.

1.8 Ability to speak Welsh

The below information is based on those registrants who have declared whether they are fluent, or fairly fluent, in the Welsh language.

Table 1.8a: Welsh language speaking ability for supply and non-supply school learning support workers in 2025.

	Supply school learning support workers		Non-supply school learning support workers		All school learning support workers	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Yes	2,113	17.7	7,514	22.1	9,627	21.0
No	9,740	81.6	22,606	66.6	32,346	70.5
Unknown	77	0.6	3,837	11.3	3,914	8.5
Total	11,930	100	33,957	100	45,887	100

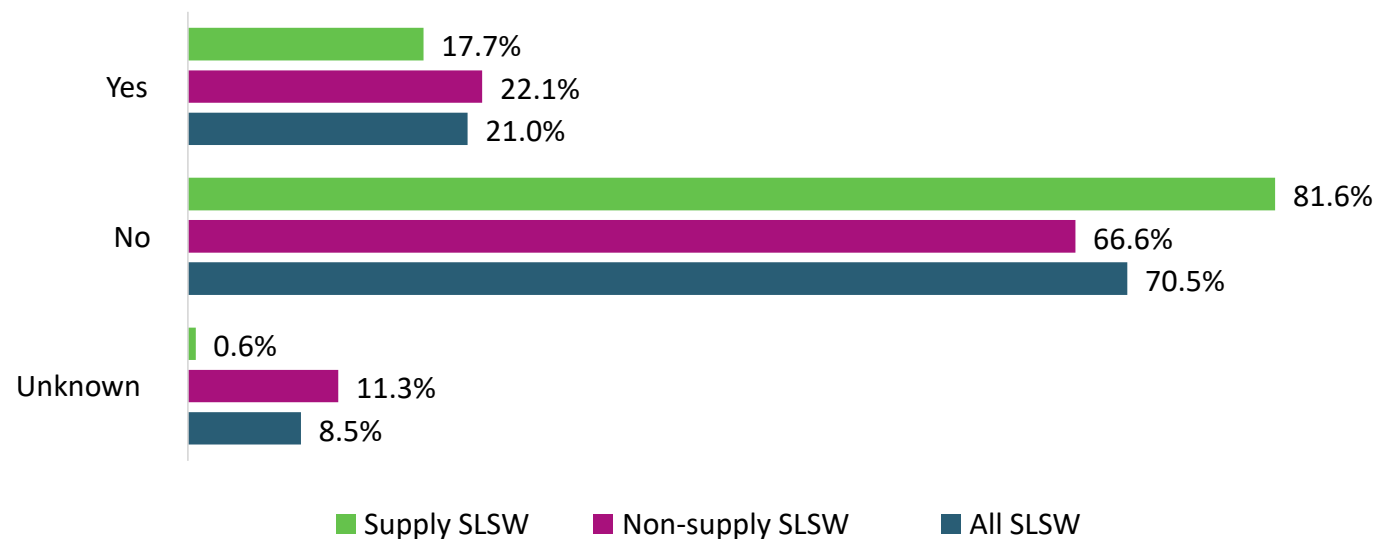


Chart 5: Percentage of spoken Welsh language ability for supply and non-supply school learning support workers in 2025.

Table 1.8b: Ability to speak Welsh for supply school learning support workers by employment in 2025.

	Agency		Local authority		Unattached/other		Total	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Yes	1,826	15.3	199	1.7	88	0.7	2,113	17.7
No	9,057	75.9	334	2.8	349	2.9	9,740	81.6
Unknown	66	0.6	6	0.1	5	0.0	77	0.6
Total	10,949	92.0	539	5.0	442	4.0	11,930	100

1.9 Ability to work through the medium of Welsh

The below information is based on those registrants who have declared whether they were either trained to work, currently work, or have ever worked through the medium of Welsh or feel confident to do so.

Table 1.19a: Welsh medium working ability for supply and non-supply school learning support workers in 2025.

	Supply school learning support workers		Non-supply school learning support workers		All school learning support workers	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Yes	1,638	13.7	6,579	19.4	8,217	17.9
No	10,210	85.6	23,503	69.2	33,713	73.5
Unknown	82	0.7	3,875	11.4	3,957	8.6
Total	11,930	100	33,957	100	45,887	100

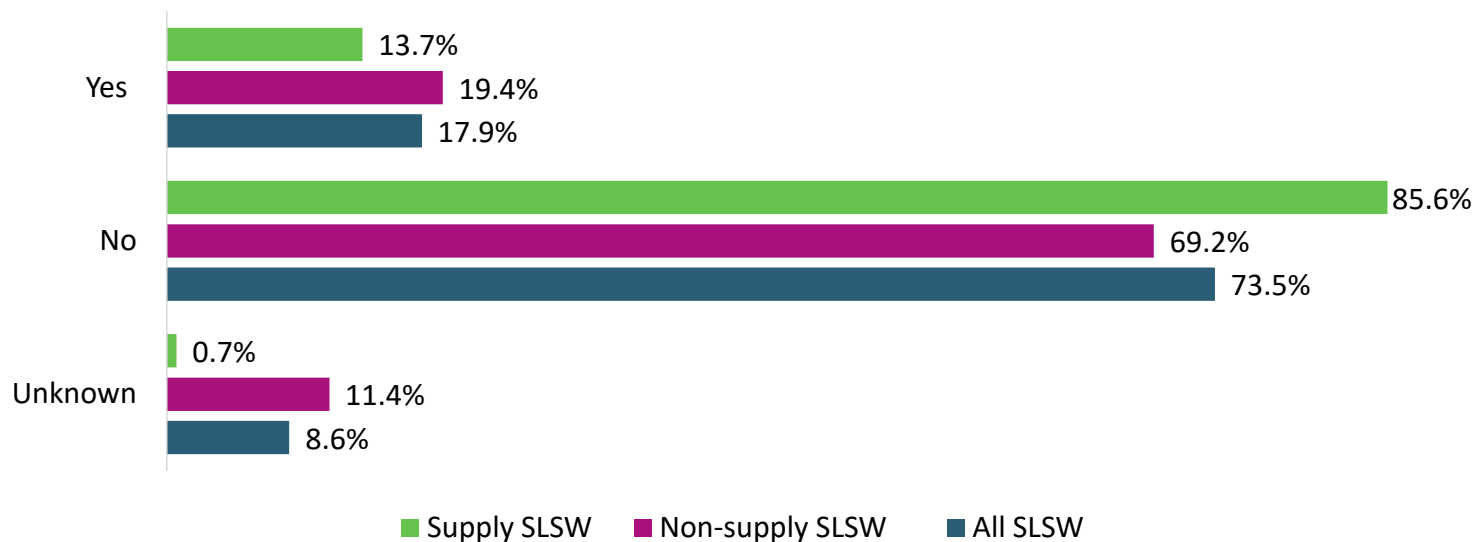


Chart 6: Percentage of Welsh medium working ability for supply and non-supply school learning support workers in 2025.

Table 1.9b: Ability to work through the medium of Welsh for supply school learning support workers by employment in 2025.

	Agency		Local authority		Unattached/other		Total	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Yes	1,405	85.8	169	10.3	64	3.9	1,638	100
No	9,473	92.8	364	3.6	373	3.7	10,210	100
Unknown	71	86.6	6	7.3	5	6.1	82	100
Total	10,949	92.0	539	5.0	442	4.0	11,930	100

1.10 Highest level of qualification

Table 1.10: Highest level of qualification of supply and non-supply school learning support workers in 2025.

	Supply school learning support workers		Non-supply school learning support workers		All school learning support workers	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Level 8	42	0.4	42	0.1	84	0.2
Level 7	2,255	18.9	3,361	9.9	5,616	12.2
Level 6	2,646	22.2	4,341	12.8	6,987	15.2
Level 5	276	2.3	677	2.0	953	2.1
Level 4	165	1.4	1,726	5.1	1,891	4.1
Level 3	1,575	13.2	2,885	8.5	4,460	9.7
Level 2	1,390	11.7	2,734	8.1	4,124	9.0
Level 1	61	0.5	124	0.4	185	0.4
Unknown level*	3,520	29.5	18,067	53.2	21,587	47.0
Total	11,930	100	33,957	100	45,887	100

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

*Unknown 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.

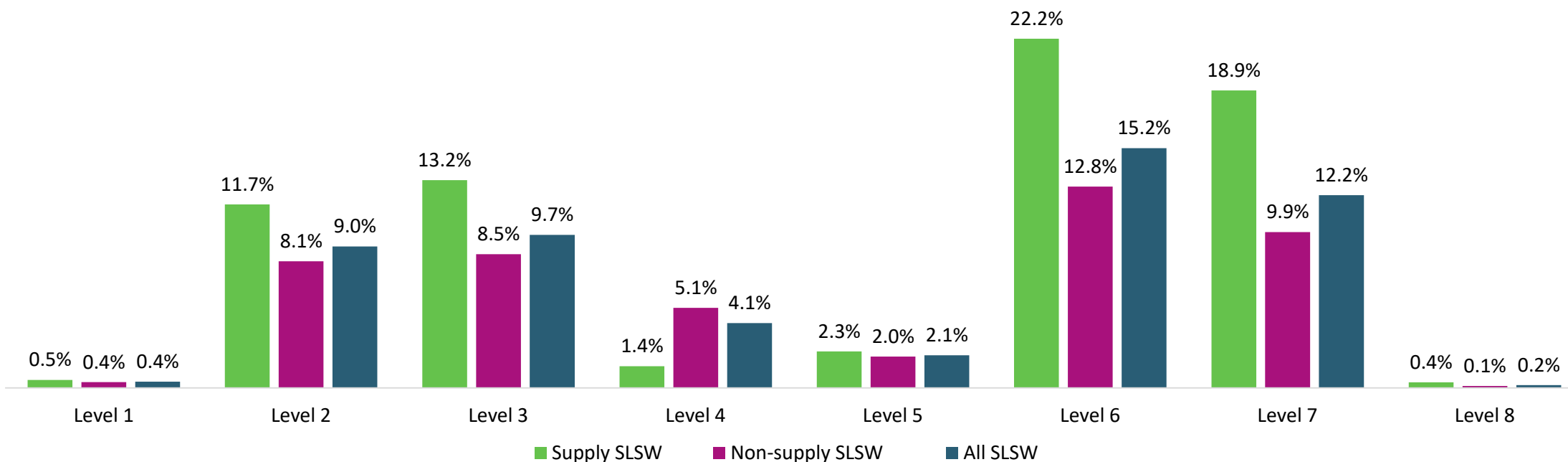


Chart 7: Supply teachers' highest level of qualification compared to those not in supply and a total of all school learning support workers in 2025.

1.11 Five-year trends of supply school learning support workers (SLSW)

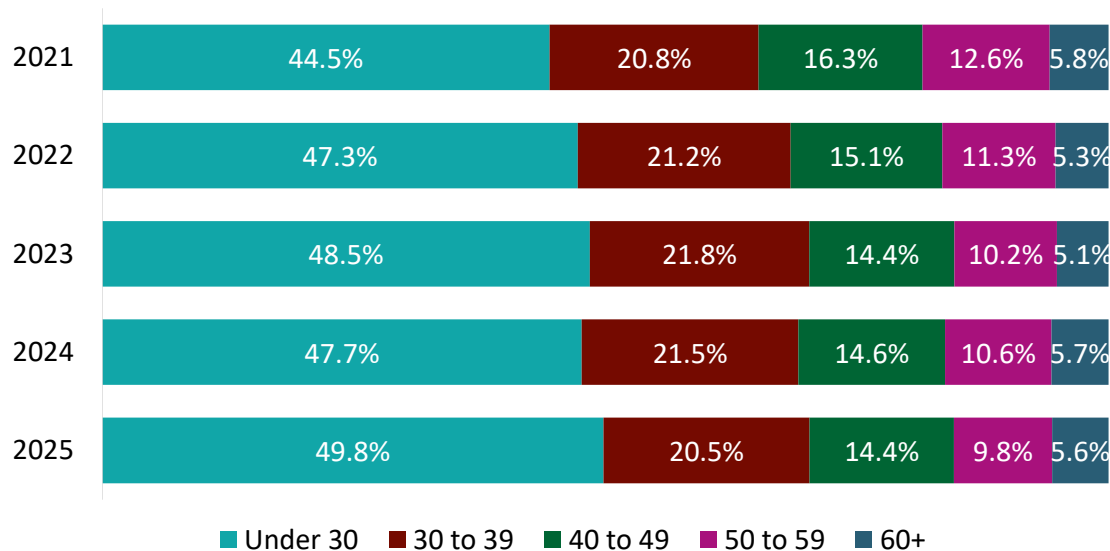


Chart 8: Age profile of supply SLSW over the last five years.

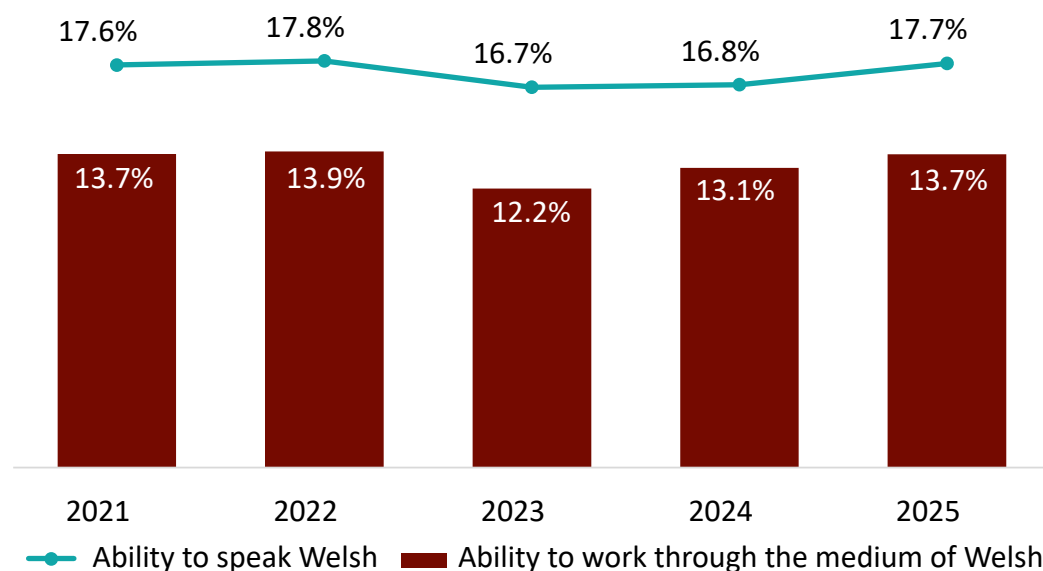


Chart 9: Welsh language ability of supply SLSW over the last five years.

Table 1.11a: Ethnic group of supply school learning support workers over the last five years.

	2021		2022		2023		2024		2025	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
White	7,054	87.0	7,956	87.8	9,579	85.7	9,360	83.8	9,986	83.7
Mixed or multiple ethnic groups	100	1.2	129	1.4	185	1.7	204	1.8	228	1.9
Asian or Asian British	326	4.0	396	4.4	625	5.6	675	6.0	794	6.7
Black, African, Caribbean or Black British	95	1.2	120	1.3	309	2.8	512	4.6	504	4.2
Other	86	1.1	114	1.3	175	1.6	184	1.6	193	1.6
Does not wish to record ethnic group	133	1.6	144	1.6	154	1.4	156	1.4	162	1.4
Unknown	312	3.8	204	2.3	146	1.3	85	0.8	63	0.5
Total	8,106	100	9,063	100	11,173	100	11,176	100	11,930	100

Table 1.11b: National identity of supply school learning support workers over the last five years.

	2021		2022		2023		2024		2025	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Welsh	3,882	47.9	4,241	46.8	4,916	44.0	4,861	43.5	5,343	44.8
British	2,753	34.0	3,341	36.9	4,301	38.5	811	7.3	4,383	36.7
English	616	7.6	593	6.5	690	6.2	4,122	36.9	756	6.3
Scottish, Irish or Northern Irish	61	0.8	77	0.8	81	0.7	56	0.5	68	0.6
Other	375	4.6	499	5.5	899	8.0	1,117	10.0	1,207	10.1
Does not wish to record national identity	109	1.3	108	1.2	128	1.1	115	1.0	100	0.8
Unknown	310	3.8	204	2.3	158	1.4	94	0.8	73	0.6
Total	8,106	100	9,063	100	11,173	100	11,176	100	11,930	100

1.12 Distribution of ethnic diversity of supply school learning support workers

Table 1.12: Ethnic diversity of supply school learning support workers and those not in supply as a proportion of all school learning support workers in 2025.

In the below table and chart each ethnic aggregated group shows the distribution of supply school learning support workers compared to those not in supply roles broken down by ethnicity.

	Supply school learning support workers		Non-supply school learning support workers		All school learning support workers	
	Number	% of proportion of all SLSW	Number	% of proportion of all SLSW	Number	%
White	9,986	27.5	26,262	72.5	36,248	100
Mixed or multiple ethnic groups	228	38.3	367	61.7	595	100
Asian or Asian British	794	44.5	992	55.5	1,786	100
Black,African, Caribbean or Black British	504	58.7	355	41.3	859	100
Other	193	43.9	247	56.1	440	100
Does not wish to record ethnic group	162	28.6	404	71.4	566	100
Unknown	63	1.2	5,330	98.8	5,393	100
Total	11,930	26.0	33,957	74.0	45,887	100

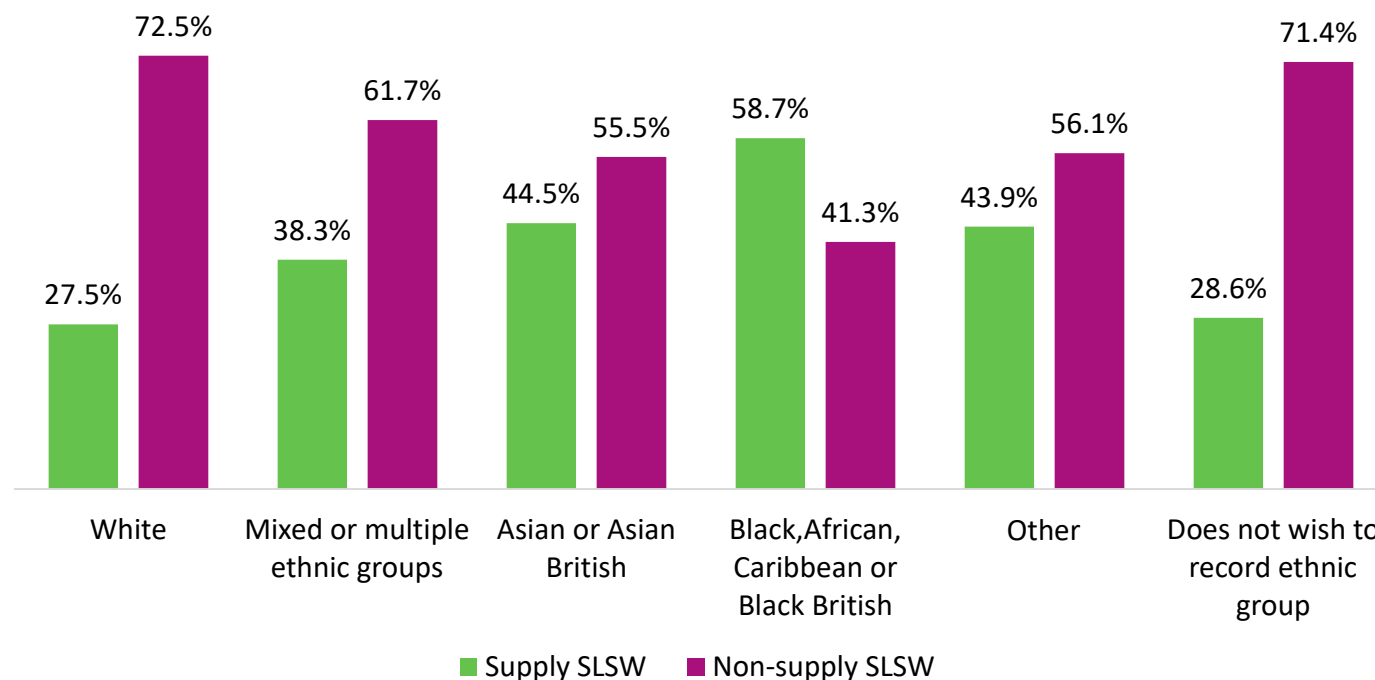


Chart 10: Ethnic diversity of supply school learning support workers as a proportion of all school learning support workers in 2025.

1.13 Welsh language by age

1.13a Welsh language ability of supply school learning support workers by age

Table 1.13a: Welsh language ability of supply school learning support workers by age in 2025.

	Under 30		30 to 39		40 to 49		50 to 59		60+	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Yes	1,389	23.4	280	11.5	203	11.9	142	12.2	99	14.8
No	4,535	76.3	2,156	88.3	1,496	87.4	995	85.4	558	83.5
Unknown	18	0.3	7	0.3	13	0.8	28	2.4	11	1.6
Total	5,942	100	2,443	100	1,712	100	1,165	100	668	100

1.13b Ability to work through the medium of Welsh of supply school learning support workers by age

Table 1.13b: Supply school learning support workers' ability to work through the medium of Welsh by their age in 2025.

	Under 30		30 to 39		40 to 49		50 to 59		60+	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Yes	1,073	18.1	239	9.8	146	8.5	108	9.3	72	10.8
No	4,848	81.6	2,197	89.9	1,551	90.6	1,029	88.3	585	87.6
Unknown	21	0.4	7	0.3	15	0.9	28	2.4	11	1.6
Total	5,942	100	2,443	100	1,712	100	1,165	100	668	100

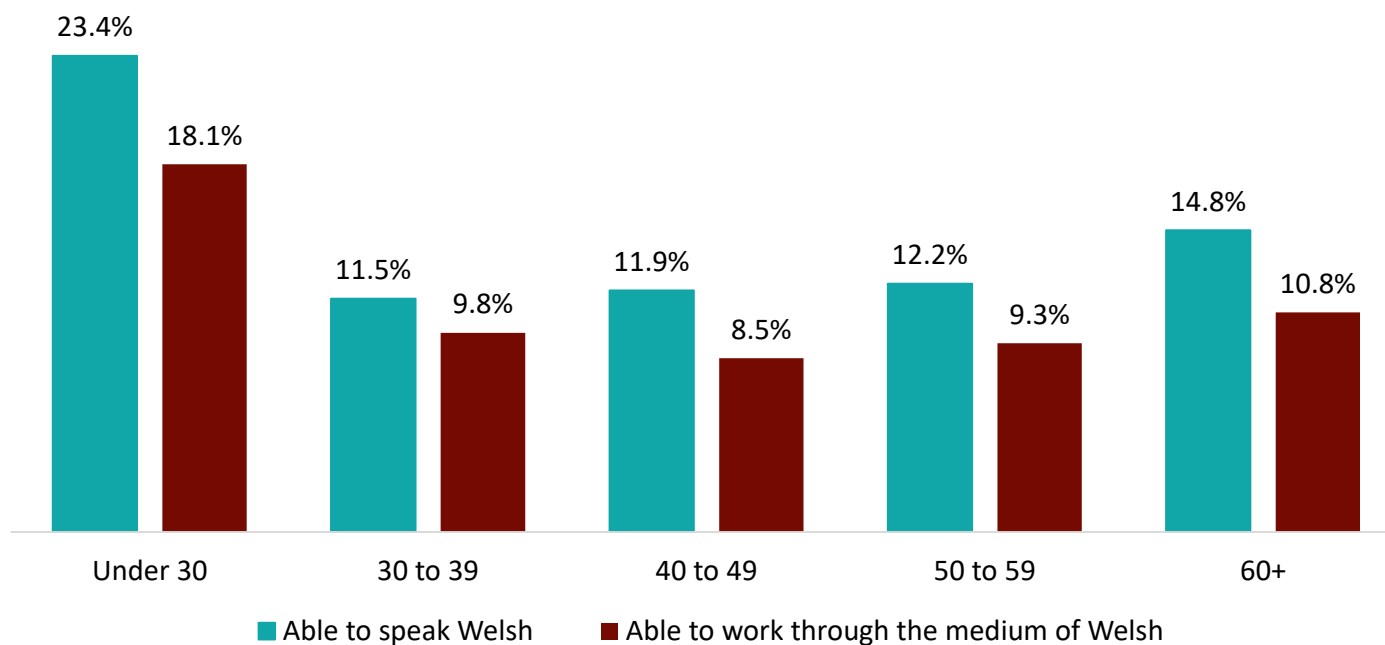


Chart 11: Ability to speak Welsh in comparison to working through the medium of Welsh for supply school learning support workers by age in 2025.

1.14 Employment by age

Table 1.14: Employment of supply school learning support workers by their age profile in 2025.

	Under 30		30 to 39		40 to 49		50 to 59		60+		Total	
	Number	% of row	Number	% of row	Number	% of row	Number	% of row	Number	% of row	Number	%
Agency	5,527	50.5	2,264	20.7	1,524	13.9	1,033	9.4	601	5.5	10,949	100
Local authority	249	46.2	96	17.8	103	19.1	59	10.9	32	5.9	539	100
Unattached / Other	166	37.6	83	18.8	85	19.2	73	16.5	35	7.9	442	100
Total	5,942	49.8	2,443	20.5	1712	14.4	1,165	9.8	668	5.6	11,930	100

1.15 Employer by singular or multiple registration

Table 1.15: Employment of supply school learning support workers by whether they are singularly registered or in multiple registration categories in 2025.

	Singularly registered as a supply school learning support worker		Supply school learning support worker registered in more than one category		Total	
	Number	% of row	Number	% of row	Number	% of row
Agency	8,601	78.6	2,348	21.4	10,949	100
Local authority	244	45.3	295	54.7	539	100
Unattached / Other	239	54.1	203	45.9	442	100
Total	9,084	76.0	2,846	24.0	11,930	100

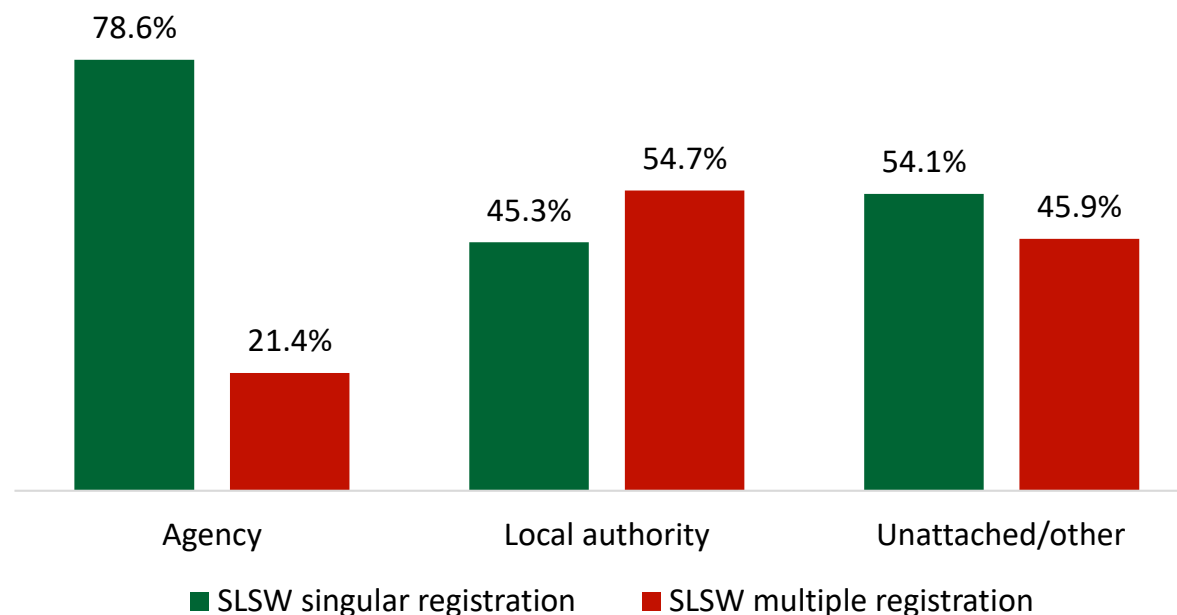


Chart 12: Employment of supply school learning support workers by whether they are singularly registered or in multiple registration categories in 2025.

1.16 Qualification level by singular or multiple registration

Table 1.16: Highest qualification level of supply school learning support worker by whether they are singularly registered or in multiple registration categories.

	Singularly registered as a supply school learning support worker		Supply school learning support worker registered in more than one category		Total	
	Number	% of row	Number	% of row	Number	% of row
Level 8	21	50.0	21	50.0	42	100
Level 7	674	29.9	1,581	70.1	2,255	100
Level 6	1,828	69.1	818	30.9	2,646	100
Level 5	230	83.3	46	16.7	276	100
Level 4	147	89.1	18	10.9	165	100
Level 3	1495	94.9	80	5.1	1,575	100
Level 2	1,343	96.6	47	3.4	1,390	100
Level 1	58	95.1	3	4.9	61	100
Unknown level*	3,288	93.4	232	6.6	3,520	100
Total	9,084	76.0	2,846	24.0	11,930	100

*Unknown 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.

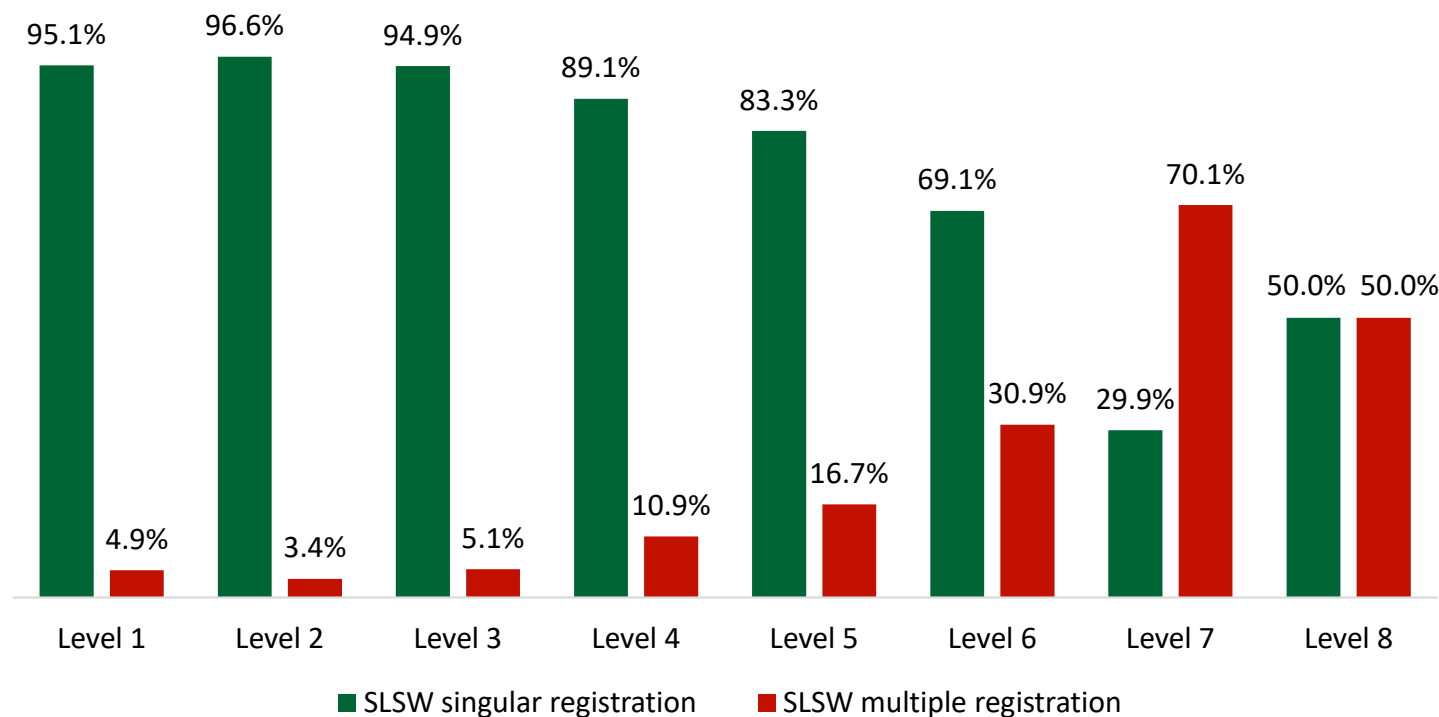


Chart 13: Highest qualification level of supply school learning support worker by whether they are singularly registered or in multiple registration categories.