



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

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PISA and its importance for Wales

North Wales education Conference



What is PISA?

- PISA assesses the knowledge and skills of pupils aged fifteen on their competence to address real life challenges involving reading, mathematics and science
- This aim differentiates PISA from other pupil assessments which measure their mastery of curriculum subjects
- The main focus for the 2012 round was mathematics, with science and reading as minor domains



Why is PISA important?

X Because it makes us look good in league tables

X Because it is a stick to beat the system with

BUT because it is an indication of how well prepared our young people are for adult life



Can we teach to the PISA test?

- Break with the past: it is not predictable
- Needs in depth skills
- Needs the manipulation of those skills

All the above will take time to implement



We are at a cusp

- Real improvement will take time to embed
- But we must work with urgency

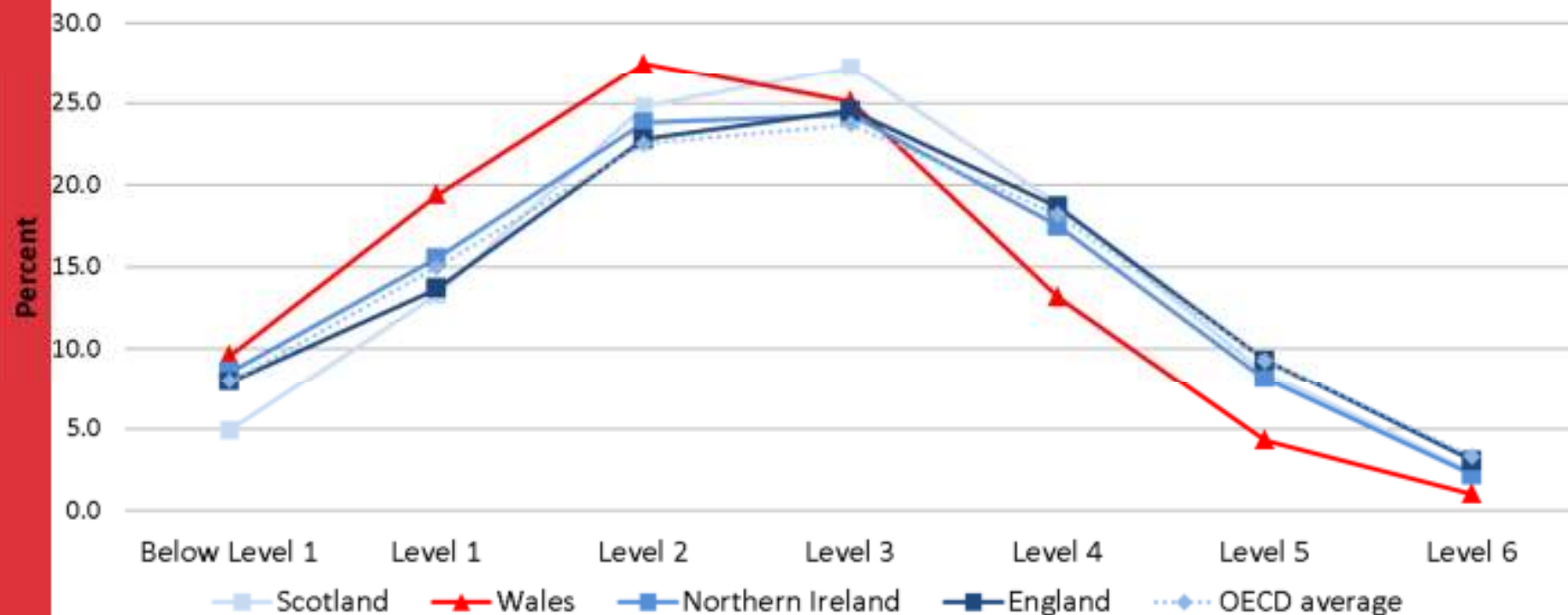
What is the current position?

Wales has significantly dropped in Maths and Science since 2006

Domain	2006	2009	2012	Change from 06	Change from 09
Mathematics	484	472	468	-16	-4
Science	505	496	491	-14	-5
Reading	481	476	480	-1	4

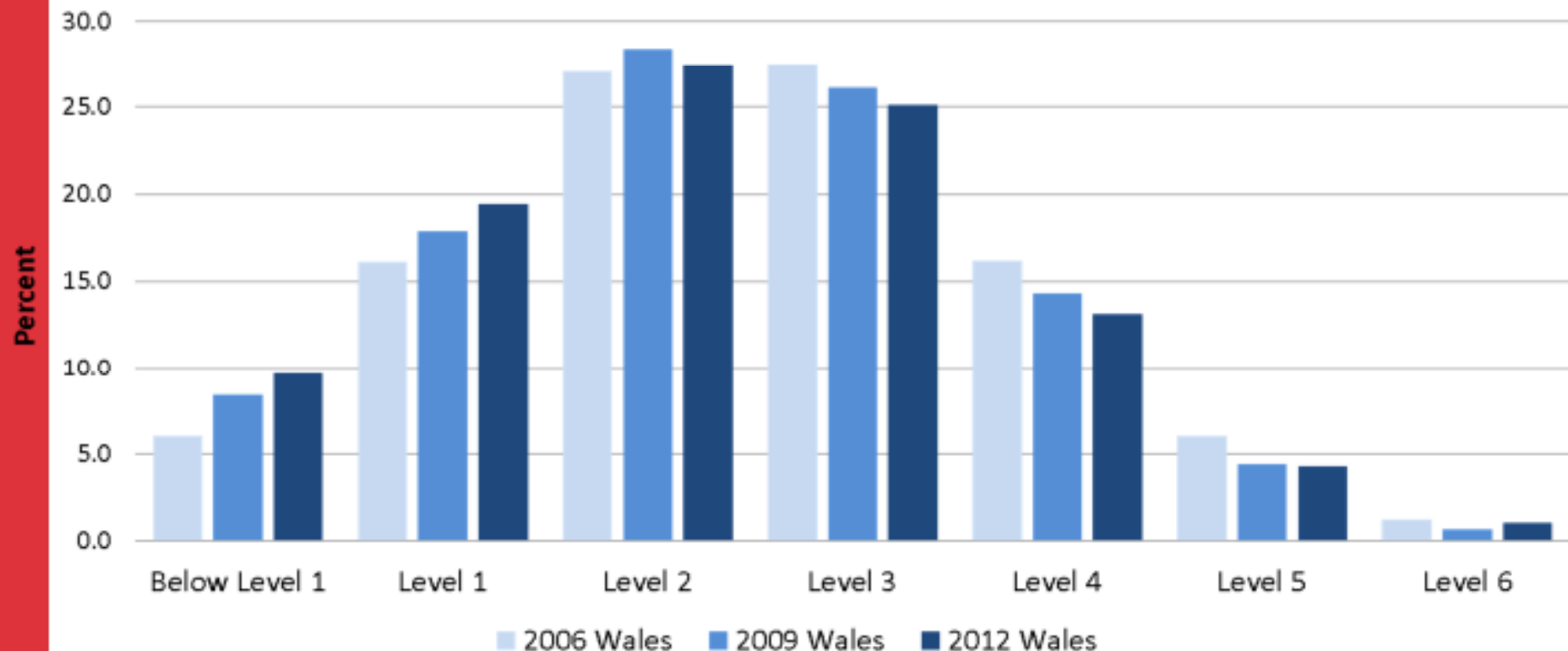
Mathematics

Percentage of students at each proficiency level on the maths scale PISA 2012



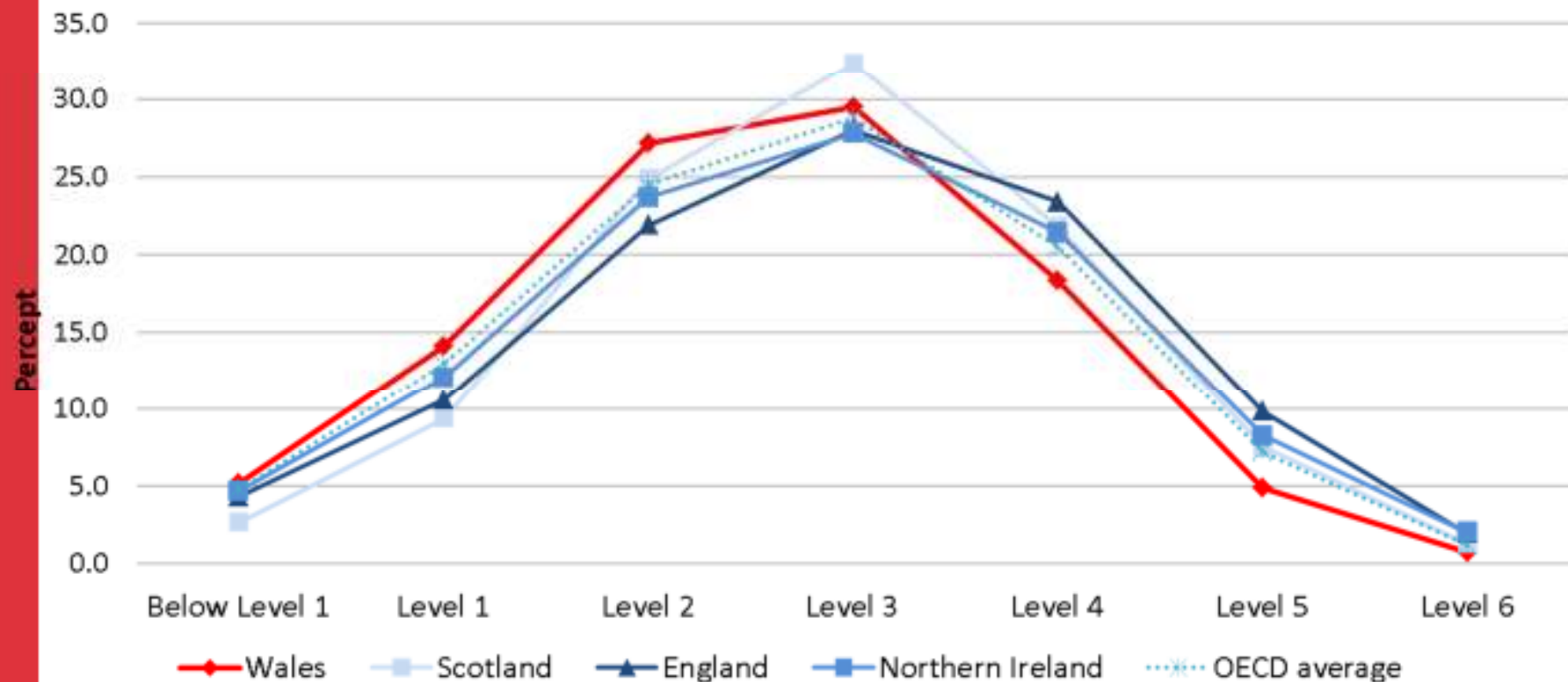
Mathematics

Percentage of students at each proficiency level on the maths scale PISA 2006, 2009, 2012



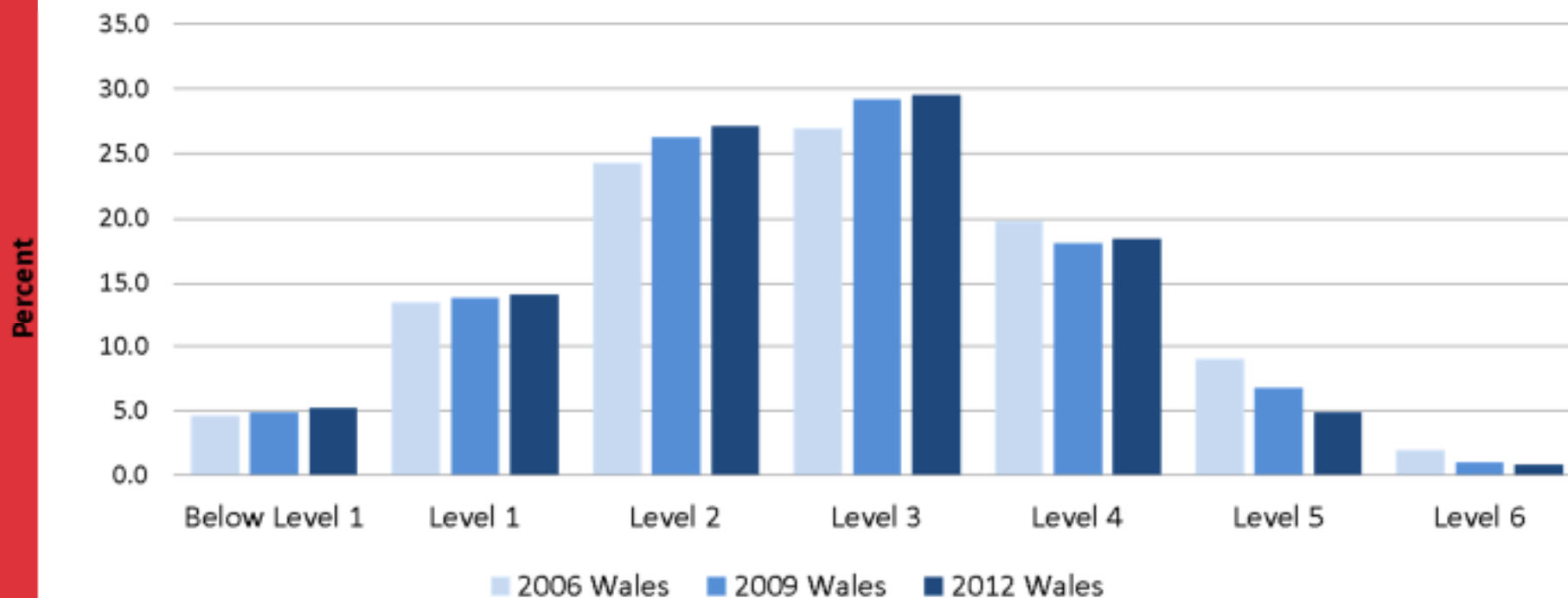
Science

Percentage of students at each proficiency level on the science scale PISA 2012



Science

Percentage of students at each proficiency level on the science scale PISA 2006, 2009, 2012





Qualified for Life, our strategic plan

The Vision

Learners in Wales will enjoy teaching and learning that inspires them, in an education community that works co-operatively and aspires to greatness, valuing the achievements of every child and young person



Our Approach

- Our Aim – excellence in teaching and learning
- Our Objectives:
 - An excellent professional workforce with strong pedagogy based on an understanding of what works
 - A curriculum which is engaging and attractive to young people and which develops within them the ability to independently apply knowledge and skills
 - Qualifications that are nationally and internationally recognised and act as a credible passport to future learning and employment
 - Leaders of education working together providing mutual support and challenge to raise standards in all schools



Strategic objective 2:

A curriculum which is engaging and attractive to young people and which develops within them the ability to independently apply knowledge and skills

- Consider the recommendations of Professor Graham Donaldson's independent review in taking forward a New Curriculum for Wales



Donaldson Review

Four big purposes of the curriculum:

- All our children will be:
 - ambitious learners
 - enterprising and creative
 - ethical and informed
 - healthy and confident



Donaldson Review

Key building Blocks

- 3-16
- six Areas of Learning and Experience
- three cross-cutting skills
- assessment linked to progression FOR learning
- broad competencies

Strategic objective 3:
Qualifications that are nationally and internationally recognised and act as a credible passport to future learning and employment

- Introduce new Wales only GCSEs in English and Welsh Language, mathematics-numeracy and mathematics for first teaching from September 2015
- Support for PISA



Strategic objective 1 and 4: The Furlong Review and the New Deal

- Describe how '*Qualified for Life*' will impact on the workforce and change expectations for pedagogy, leadership and the development of practice from initial teacher training onwards
- Set a timetable for change to enable schools and practitioners to identify priorities



Thank you