



# School Library Home Languages Funding Scheme

## 2023 applications now open

### We ♥ books in foreign languages

Home languages are part of a student's identity and heritage, and at Languages Connect we would like to support the maintenance of home languages for students. Skills and fluency in a second language help students build lifelong connections, have a better understanding of diversity and expand future career choices.

The Languages Connect School Library Funding scheme helps students with a heritage home language maintain their language. It can also support students who have recently arrived from another country to maintain their language and support new language learning with dual language books.

Schools with students who have a home language other than English or Irish can avail of the scheme to purchase books for their library.

### How does your school benefit?

#### Students:

Your students' literacy and home language skills are supported by providing material in their language.

This also makes them feel included and shows that their heritage is valued by all. Students can benefit from the library resources if they sit exams or want to maintain their home language.

#### Teachers:

Your teachers will be able to make use of home language books and other materials, well as to encourage students to use them. All teachers will be able to use resources in various home languages to support literacy.

#### School library:

Your school library will be more inclusive, diverse and better able to support students' home language skills and heritage.

**Fully  
Funded**  
by the Dept of  
Education

# Guidelines for School Library Home Languages Scheme

## 1. How does it work?

- ✓ If you have students who speak languages other than English or Irish, enquire what books or other resources they might want in the school library.
- ✓ If you have students who have recently arrived from other countries you can use funding to acquire resources for the students in their home language.
- ✓ Students may also choose easy readers, magazines, comics, reference books, maps, foreign language traditional or digital games, etc. Any resource to assist with activities involving a student's language may, within reason, be covered by the scheme.
- ✓ The Parents' Association or a group of parents might want to help the school source materials.

## 2. Checklist for criteria:

- ✓ Your primary or post-primary school must be Department of Education registered.
- ✓ Your students would benefit from foreign language books and other resources.
- ✓ The library agrees to display a Languages Connect sticker on the books purchased.
- ✓ The school accepts that it will acquire the resources independently and that funding will be provided by reimbursement upon provision of receipts.
- ✓ The school agrees to fill in a short evaluation form to give feedback six months after the full reimbursement.
- ✓ You agree to promote access to these books and resources to all students via their teachers, parents association, and other school communication channels.

## 3. Apply for funding in a few simple steps

Apply for funding by filling in a simple form [www.surveymonkey.com/r/SchoolLibrary2023](http://www.surveymonkey.com/r/SchoolLibrary2023)

Application deadline is **31st May 2023**.

In the approval email you will be provided with a link to a reimbursement form where you upload your receipts and reimbursement information.

The reimbursement form must be submitted by **31st October 2023**.

## 4. Sourcing books

- Search online for books in the language you require and possible providers.
- For quality book ideas The International Board on Books for Young People (IBBY) is a non-profit organisation which represents an international network of people from more than 80 countries who are committed to bringing books and children together. Find some recommendations from them at: [www.ibby-europe.org/](http://www.ibby-europe.org/)
- If you acquire materials from the UK or elsewhere outside the EU be mindful of any customs and shipping charges. These are covered by the scheme but please factor in the extra expense.

Languages Connect aims to raise awareness of the many personal, social, economic and professional benefits of foreign language skills for all Irish people. It is delivered by Post-Primary Languages Ireland (PPLI) as part of the Irish Government strategy Languages Connect: Ireland's Foreign Languages Strategy 2017-2027. Accessible at: <https://bit.ly/2m6HPxX>

The School Library Home Languages Scheme is administered under Action 2.E.4 of the Strategy *'Schools and libraries should have books, digital resources etc. available in a variety of relevant home languages'*.

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