

# Over 50,000 primary pupils Say Yes to Languages!

During the 2022/23 school year, over 700 schools will be involved in Say Yes to Languages, a sampler module introducing primary pupils to a new language. *Say Yes to Languages* aims to facilitate schools in introducing a Modern Foreign Language (MFL) of their choice or Irish Sign Language (ISL).

The module has been extended due to its success last year, and nearly 400 schools will be opting to participate for two consecutive years. The module's duration was also increased from six to eight hours, over a period of eight weeks. The targeted groups remain 3rd to 6th class pupils. Participating schools are eligible for a grant from the Department of Education, which has also been increased to €400 per class, up to a maximum of €1,600 per school.

## Context

In line with the *NCCA Draft Primary Curriculum Framework* ([bit.ly/NCCADraftCurriculum](https://bit.ly/NCCADraftCurriculum)), the module sets out to give a taste to teachers and pupils of what it means to integrate additional languages alongside English and Irish. In this context, *Say Yes to Languages* aims to:

- Generate awareness among pupils of the range of languages used by their peers, including ISL in their schools and communities which may help support greater inclusion and appreciation of diversity in society,
- Encourage uptake of languages at post-primary level,
- Provide opportunities for increased levels of collaboration among the school community with regard to the celebration of languages and cultures,
- Support implementation of *Languages Connect – Ireland's Strategy for Foreign Languages in Education 2017 – 2026* ([bit.ly/InTouchLink1](https://bit.ly/InTouchLink1)).

## Range of languages

The number of languages chosen by schools rose from 13 last year to 15 this year: Arabic, Chinese, French, German, Hebrew, ISL, Italian, Japanese, Polish, Portuguese, Romanian, Spanish, Tamil, Ukrainian and Russian. The tutors



teaching the module can be primary and secondary school teachers, but also members

of the wider community, including parents. Schools select a suitable teacher/tutor, and to help with the task, Post-Primary Languages Ireland (PPLI) can share details of over 800 potential teachers/tutors who have registered their interest in teaching the module, to date.

## Website and support

A dedicated area of the Languages Connect website ([bit.ly/InTouch2](https://bit.ly/InTouch2)) hosts all content relating to the module including a list of participating schools over the three terms of the school year. The teaching and learning resources are accessible from the website and are also available in Irish, thanks to collaboration with COGG. A frequently asked questions area provides clarification for recurrent queries.

Training sessions are provided by PPLI to all teachers/tutors delivering the module, and information sessions are also facilitated for hosting teachers and other school representatives. Awareness raising packs are also sent out to all participating schools, to complement the

teaching resources.

Salvo Cacciato, Project Leader, said: "We were very pleased to see a 50% increase in the number of schools applying and such high percentage of schools re-applying. We are really looking forward to meeting all teachers and principals at our online sessions and to visit some schools to witness the learning and fun in action."

**PPLI is a unit of the Department of Education implementing key actions in *Languages Connect, Ireland's Strategy for Foreign Languages in Education 2017–2026*. The Primary Team within PPLI consists of: KAREN RUDDOCK, Director; DR KENIA PUIG, Education Officer, Overseeing and ISL; SALVO CACCIATO, Education Officer, Project Leader and MFL and KATE TYNDALL, Project Co-ordinator. For all the latest updates, check out [www.languagesconnect.ie](https://www.languagesconnect.ie)**



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