

SAMPLE LOCAL PRESS RELEASE – SAY YES TO LANGUAGES – 2023/2024

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- **Fill in the details relevant to your school so you can share with the local paper/radio station and/or use in your school newsletter.**
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[School Name] says 'Yes' to Languages

Local school joins 80,000 Primary pupils nationwide as they take part in Language Sampler Module

Over [insert number of pupils participating here] from [School Name] are set to take part in, 'Say Yes to Languages' starting [start date]. The language module, which is being made available for the third year following its extension by the Department of Education, has been met with overwhelming enthusiasm over the past two years and this interest looks set to continue with 1200 schools registered to take part in 2023/2024.

'Say Yes to Languages' offers an introduction into a variety of modern foreign languages as well as Irish Sign Language (ISL) and looks to also raise awareness among pupils of the diversity of languages being used by their peers both in school and the wider community. Preparing the ground towards the future inclusion of additional languages as part of the redeveloped Primary Curriculum Framework, the targeted groups are third to sixth class pupils.

Over 700 schools took part in the module last year which saw Arabic, French, German, Hebrew, Italian, ISL, Japanese, Mandarin Chinese, Polish, Portuguese, Romanian, Russian, Spanish, Tamil and Ukrainian being taught across the country. Pupils of [insert school name] will be saying [insert YES in relevant language] to [language] which will be delivered over an eight-week period during the normal school timetable.

Speaking about the module, Principal [insert principle's name] comments, *"We are delighted to be bringing 'Say Yes to Languages' to [school name] this year. We have [insert no. of languages] languages currently being used by pupils and staff and certainly recognise the benefit and importance of a module such as this. Whilst learning languages undoubtedly allows for the development of a life skill, it also helps build greater awareness of the rich and diverse cultures within our own school and local community."*

Tutors of the module are typically teachers however they may also be part of the wider school community including parents, native speakers, or other staff members. [Tutors name] will be delivering the module this year at [insert school] and is excited to have the opportunity to share [his/her] passion for [insert language] with the pupils.

"It is a fun, interactive and engaging module which really begins to set the foundations for an ongoing positive relationship with languages. This will be of great benefit to the pupils as they continue through their education, hopefully bringing a love of language with them," adds teacher/tutor/ Principal [insert name]

In line with previous years, the module is being rolled out over three terms, with the support of Languages Connect and PPLI (Post-Primary Languages Ireland), a unit of the Department of Education.

Speaking at the announcement of the third year of the module, Minister for Education Norma Foley T.D commented, *“Learning a Modern Foreign Language will form part of the primary school experience for pupils over the coming years, in line with the newly-published [Primary Curriculum Framework](#). The future inclusion of foreign languages in the primary curriculum will be informed by the delivery of Say Yes to Languages and we look forward to another successful running of the module in 2023/24.”*

A suite of resources has been produced including lesson plans for teachers and tutors and ‘Language Passports’ for all participating pupils to show their family and friend. Packs have been sent to participating schools to help support both the teaching and learning, but also awareness raising objectives of the program. More information regarding the program, tutor expression of interest and supports are available at www.languagesconnect.ie/primary

ENDS

For further information please contact [insert school details]

About Languages Connect

Languages Connect promotes the personal, social, professional and economic benefits of foreign language skills to principals, teachers, guidance counsellors, parents and students. Funded by the Department of Education and facilitated by Post Primary Languages Ireland, as a key objective of the Languages Connect – Ireland’s Strategy for Foreign Languages in Education 2017 – 2026. For all the latest updates check out www.languagesconnect.ie or follow us on [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#)