Say Yes to Languages 2024/2025

Frequently Asked Questions

Eligibility	
1. Is our school eligible to participate in *Say Yes to Languages*?	Application to the module is voluntary and is open to all **recognised** English-medium and Irish-medium primary and special schools, including participants in previous years. Please refer to the "Selection" section of **Circular 0042/2024** for details.
2. Which classes in our school can take part in *Say Yes to Languages*?	The module is available to pupils from 3rd to 6th class inclusive.
3. Are special schools restricted to similar age levels or can they open it to all classes they believe it will benefit?	We will look at these on a case-by-case basis. In the application form please use the "Other" box and describe the classes you intend to apply for.
4. What should schools do in order to comply with the requirements?	In applying for the module, schools commit to complying with the requirements as outlined in **Circular 0042/2024**

Language Selection	
1. Are there any guidelines for selecting a language for our school?	Schools can select any modern foreign language of their choice or Irish Sign Language (ISL). We advise schools to consider teaching capacity, school demographics and the availability of teachers/tutors (as required). We also encourage schools to pursue lesser-taught languages where possible.
2. Should schools prioritise modern foreign languages taught in local secondary schools?	*Say Yes to Languages* aims to foster an appreciation for linguistic diversity and inclusion. It is up to schools to decide which language suits their school best and their choice can change from year to year.
3. Can schools do different languages with different classes?	Schools are invited to choose one language. However, where there are staff members available to work as teachers for different languages, this could be an option.
4. We are interested in pursuing ISL, are we required to source an interpreter for the tutor?	Please check with the tutor selected if an interpreter is required. If that is the case, please note that we encourage ISL tutors to limit their involvement to the first two sessions. Please contact primary@ppli.ie for further information.
5. Does PPLI provide a prescribed *Say Yes to Languages* syllabus for tutors, or can tutors design their own course?	PPLI has developed a variety of resources to support teachers/tutors to deliver the module available here. Training and support will also be provided by PPLI to all participating teachers/tutors.

6. Our school would like to pursue Lámh as our language choice instead of ISL, is this possible?	Currently, Lámh is not covered under the programme. The funding for this module is to provide tuition in Irish Sign Language (ISL) and Modern Foreign Languages.

Grant Funding & Payments	
1. How is grant funding allocated for the module?	Grant Funding is allocated based on the on the number of participating classrooms - 1 classroom, €500 - 2 classrooms, €1000 - 3 classrooms, €1500 - 4 classrooms, €2000 **N.B.** (Two or more year groups combined in one classroom will count as one unit)
2. How do schools apply for grant funding?	After confirmation of participation in *Say Yes to Languages*, schools will receive a link via email to a separate Grant Application Form to provide the school's bank account details.
3. How will visiting tutors be paid?	Schools are responsible for the administration of the grant. Please see the Funding and Payment section of **Circular 0042/2024** for further details.
4. A teacher/staff member already on payroll is delivering the module, are they entitled to be remunerated with grant monies?	In this case, schools should commit to using part of the grant to fund participation in a language upskilling course for one staff member. Please consult the section: **Teachers/Tutors Selection and Language Upskilling** for further details.
5. We are a small school where two or more year groups share a classroom and a teacher, what rate of grant are we eligible for?	Two or more year groups combined into one classroom will count as one unit and grant funding will be allocated accordingly. For example, a classroom occupied by one fifth class and one sixth class will be eligible for **€500** worth of funding.
6. We are a large school with more than four classrooms from 3rd to 6th wishing to participate in *Say Yes to Languages*, can we apply for extra funding?	More than four classrooms may participate; however, grant funding is capped at a maximum of **€2000** based on four classrooms.
7. How should we utilise any leftover funding?	Leftover funding, if any, may be used to fund language upskilling courses for registered teachers on staff, purchase further resources or host events in support of the module.
8. What kind of additional resources can be purchased to support the module?	Foreign-language resources such as children's books or games or school supplies which can be used to support the

	teaching of the module. Feel free to contact us at primary@ppli.ie and we could arrange to discuss based on your school's needs.

Organisation & Duration

1. How long should the module run for?	PPLI will inform you whether your school is selected to participate in Term 1 or Term 2 of the school year. Schools should commit to deliver the module within the specified timeframe and for the full number of hours, which is **1 hour per participating classroom per week, for a total of 10 hours per pupil/class over 10 weeks.**
2. What are the term dates for the 2024/25 school year?	Schools will be designated to participate in Term 1 or Term 2. The term dates are as follows: Term 1: 30/09/2024 to 07/02/2025 Term 2: 24/02/2025 to 13/06/2025
3. Can our school switch to a different term from the one we were originally designated?	Terms are organised to accommodate the availability of tutors and to facilitate administration. We cannot guarantee that changes will be accommodated, but please contact primary@ppli.ie in the case of unforeseen circumstances.
4. Do classes need to be an hour long?	The module will run for one hour per week for 10 weeks over one school term, but it is up to the teacher/tutor and hosting teacher to decide how best to divide the classes. Each weekly hour of tuition can be a single, hour-long class or any combination of shorter classes (e.g. two half-hour-long classes) adding up to an hour.
5. Can classes take place after school?	No. Classes must take place during the timetabled school day.

Teachers/Tutors Selection & Language Upskilling

1. What criteria can help us choose a suitable teacher to deliver the module?	Where feasible, we encourage schools to nominate a registered teacher on staff with some existing level of proficiency in a Modern Foreign Language or ISL. Alternatively, where no member of staff is available to deliver the module, schools

	may engage visiting teachers/tutors or members of the wider school community.
2. Can PPLI guide us in selecting a visiting teacher/tutor?	Yes, PPLI can provide lists of tutors in your school's county and broader vicinity who have expressed interest in delivering the module.
3. How can I register my interest as a visiting tutor for the module?	Interested tutors can register by filling out this Expression of Interest Form. PPLI will put them in contact with schools should the need arise.
4. Should the class teacher remain in the classroom with the visiting teacher/tutor?	Where the teacher/tutor is not a member of the teaching staff of the school they will work under the guidance of the class teacher in terms of advice provided in **Circular 0042/2018** around Garda Vetting and other child protection requirements. Classroom teachers are encouraged to collaborate with visiting tutors and participate in the module. To facilitate collaboration, find our booklet: *Tips for Hosting and Visiting Language Teachers* on our resources page.
5. Does PPLI facilitate Garda Vetting on behalf of schools?	It is the responsibility of schools to ensure Garda Vetting is carried out for all external facilitators in line with **Circular 0042/2018**
6. I am a re-applying school and a member of staff will be delivering the module. Do I need to use part of the grant to fund a language upskilling course for a teacher on staff?	Yes. For re-applying schools where a member of staff will deliver the module, the school is required to allocate a portion of the grant for language upskilling for **one teacher on staff**. Course opportunities will be made available on the upskilling page of our website. Please see Q7 below in relation to funding for additional staff.
7. We have more than one teacher on staff who would like to participate in language upskilling courses. Are there funded opportunities?	Yes. Funded upskilling opportunities for additional staff members will also be made available. Please refer to the upskilling page of our website for details.
8. Are funded language upskilling courses only available to teachers delivering Say Yes to Languages?	No. Please refer to the upskilling page of our website for details on eligibility.
9. Does the teacher we may nominate for upskilling have to be a 3rd to 6th class teacher?	No. The nominated teacher should be a staff member with an existing level of proficiency in a Modern Foreign Language, regardless of the year group he or she is currently teaching.
10. I am a re-applying school and we will be using a visiting tutor to deliver classes. Can we still avail of language upskilling?	Yes, even if a visiting tutor will deliver the classes, funded upskilling opportunities for teachers on staff will still be available. Please refer to the upskilling page of our website for details.
11. What is the purpose of upskilling?	The Department of Education has made funding available for a language upskilling

	scheme, offering a variety of courses for primary school teachers to choose from. New opportunities for teachers as they become available are updated **here** so please check back. Alternatively, for more information regarding language upskilling for primary, please email primary@ppli.ie
12. I am a primary school teacher and have a level of proficiency in a modern foreign language/ ISL, can I teach the module?	Yes.
13. I am a primary school teacher and have a level of proficiency in a modern foreign language/ ISL, but I do not teach any 3rd to 6th classes. Can I teach the module?	Yes.
14. Can the teacher/tutor be a native speaker of the language with no teaching qualifications?	Teachers/tutors are not required to have specific language or teaching qualifications. However, all language tutors will work under the supervision of the class teacher in terms of advice provided in **Circular 0042/2018** around Garda vetting and other child protection requirements. Training and support will be provided by PPLI to all participating teachers/tutors.
15. Can we approach a local secondary school teacher of MFL to deliver the module?	Yes. It is to be noted, however, that the module will be delivered during the regular primary school timetable.
16. Can we approach a foreign language assistant from a local secondary school to deliver the module?	Yes. In this case, please consult the secondary school and the foreign language assistant on a timetable that suits all parties.
17. Can a substitute teacher who has a level of proficiency in an MFL/ISL deliver the module?	Yes. If the substitute teacher is available to deliver the classes over the complete duration of the module.
18. Can we approach a retired teacher with proficiency in an MFL/ISL to deliver the module?	Yes.
19. Can we approach a parent/guardian with proficiency in a heritage or lesser-taught language to deliver the module?	Yes. Where the teacher/tutor is not a member of the teaching staff of the school they will work under the guidance of the class teacher in terms of advice provided in **Circular 0042/2018** around Garda vetting and other child protection requirements.
20. Our visiting teacher/tutor already has been Garda Vetted from a previous contact/recent employment should there Garda Vetting be renewed?	Garda Vetting is not transferable from previous contracts/recent employment and is required to be renewed for any external facilitator.

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