

Say **Yes** to Languages

Information
for parents/
guardians



Hi from the 'Say Yes to Languages' Team!



What is it?

'Say Yes to Languages' is a language learning programme, which is fully funded by the Department of Education.

Why is it a great opportunity for your child?

- It is a great chance to have fun while exploring a new language.
- Children who learn languages are more likely to develop better literacy skills and increased creativity, as well as an appreciation of diversity and deeper empathy for others.
- Language learners tend to score higher in Maths! They develop problem-solving and critical thinking skills.
- It is a great opportunity to have a positive experience learning languages, which will help with subject choices in secondary school.
- It will help your child to develop a range of skills which they can use in the future, no matter what career path they take.

Where and when does it take place?

The classes take place in your child's school, during the normal timetable. The programme runs for a total of ten hours of classes.

"It's cool to get to know how other people live and what it's like in their country. It's really nice to learn about a new culture and language."

from a pupil

"I think it's brilliant! My son...would come home and tell me about the new words he had learned and even quiz me..."

from a parent

"Lots of parents have commented on the children ... getting to know each other better through identification of different languages and cultures."

from a teacher

How can you help support your child's learning?

- Model a positive attitude towards languages and demonstrate an interest in your child's progress. You can use the Language Passport as a conversation starter.
- Have fun with the challenges in the passport and language fold-out and try to play language games with your child.
- Learn alongside your child: look for other languages on packaging, in magazines, on websites, in comics and encourage language exploration.
- Talk about your own experiences of language learning: what you enjoyed; what helped you to learn; what you would do differently; how you use the languages you know etc. (even if it is only a few words!).
- Do you have proficiency in a language? Then use it as much as possible at home! This will help to reinforce the benefits of language learning.
- You could also be the tutor for the programme! Alternatively, you could just visit for a day and read a story, play games, tell the pupils about a different country/language that you know about.

How does it work?

Pupils will learn the new language by taking part in fun games and activities, and making comparisons to all the other languages that they know.

The school receives a pack of resources, some of which will be distributed to the pupils.

What will they receive?

'Language Passports', to record their learning and reflections

'Language Fold-Outs', containing key vocabulary, facts, figures and games





‘Say Yes to Languages’ Aims:

- Generate awareness among pupils of the range of languages, including Irish Sign Language, used by their peers 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 the implementation of Languages Connect: Ireland’s Strategy for Foreign Languages in Education.

Did you know?

In 2022, over 750,000 people resident in Ireland spoke a language other than English or Irish at home. Over 200,000 of these were born in Ireland. (CSO)

Modern foreign languages will become part of a redeveloped Primary School Curriculum in Ireland.

In all other European countries, pupils already learn one or more foreign languages from primary school.

“We have over 40 different nationalities.... It allows for wider discussion of the countries & languages that make up our school community.”

from a principal

For more information, please go to our website:

<https://languagesconnect.ie/primary/>



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