

## SAMPLE LOCAL PRESS RELEASE – SAY YES TO LANGUAGES – 2024/2025

### STEPS:

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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.
- Don't forget to delete the parts that you don't need.
- Send some nice photos with your photo prop and passports too!

### {INSERT SCHOOL NAME} says 'Yes' to Languages

#### Local school joins over 85,000 Primary pupils taking part in language learning module

Over [insert number] primary pupils from [insert school name] will take part in the Say Yes to Languages primary sampler module this term. The language module has been made available for a fourth year, following an extension by the Department of Education.

Say Yes to Languages has grown considerably over the past four years, with a total of over 1,300 schools and their pupils taking part throughout this time. The module offers an introduction into a variety of modern foreign languages (MFL) as well as Irish Sign Language (ISL) and seeks to raise awareness among pupils of the languages spoken in their school environment and local community.

Over 1,200 primary schools took part last year, with Arabic, Chinese, Dutch, French, German, Italian, Irish Sign Language (ISL), Japanese, Lithuanian, Polish, Portuguese, Romanian, Russian, Spanish and Ukrainian being taught in classrooms across the country. Pupils from [insert school] will be saying [insert yes in chosen language] to [insert chosen language]. The programme will be delivered within the normal school timetable over a ten-week period, which is an increase of two weeks from previous years.

Speaking about the module, Principal [insert principal's name] comments, "We are thrilled that our pupils are participating in the 'Say Yes to Languages' programme this year. With [insert number of languages] languages spoken within our school community, this module offers a fantastic opportunity for students to deepen their understanding of different languages and cultures while also enhancing their transversal skills." [Insert school name]'s tutor(s) of the programme this year will be [insert tutor name and some relevant information regarding the tutor and language]

*"It is an engaging, fun, interactive module that is designed to foster a lasting relationship with languages among pupils. It provides valuable benefits to our pupils, which will hopefully support them throughout their lives, equipping them with essential language skills for the future.."* adds teacher/tutor/principal [insert name].

The growth in interest in foreign language learning in primary has been supported by the publication of the Primary Curriculum Framework which will introduce modern foreign languages (MFL) within the primary school setting in a redeveloped Primary Language Curriculum.

Speaking previously about the programme, 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 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”*

A suite of resources has been produced by Languages Connect who are overseeing Say Yes to Languages. These include teaching resources for teachers and other supports such as ‘Language Passports’, fun fold-outs and more for all participating pupils to show their family and friends. Packs have been sent to participating schools to help support both teaching and learning, but also the awareness-raising objectives of the programme. More information regarding Say Yes to Languages, tutor expression of interest and supports are available at [www.languagesconnect.ie/primary](http://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, it is a key objective of Languages Connect – Ireland’s Strategy for Foreign Languages in Education 2017 – 2026. For all the latest updates check out [www.languagesconnect.ie](http://www.languagesconnect.ie) or follow us on X, [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#)