

# Say Yes to Languages 2025/2026

## Frequently Asked Questions

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### Eligibility

#### **Is our school eligible to participate in Say Yes to Languages?**

Application 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 0031/2025](#) for details.

#### **Which classes in our school can take part in Say Yes to Languages?**

In order to maximise its reach and allow a larger number of schools to take part, Say Yes to Languages will be offered to pupils in 5th and 6th class from the 2025/26 school year. Schools with multigrade classrooms which include 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> class pupils can also apply.

### Language Selection

#### **Are there any guidelines for selecting a language for our school?**

Schools can select any Modern Foreign Language (MFL) of their choice or Irish Sign Language (ISL). Schools are advised to consider teaching capacity, school demographics and the availability of teachers/tutors when making their choice.

#### **Should schools prioritise Modern Foreign Languages (MFL)s taught in local secondary schools?**

That is not a requirement. 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.

#### **Can schools do different languages with different classes?**

Schools are invited to choose one language. However, where there are staff members with capacity in different languages, they should be encouraged to deliver the module in those languages and will be supported with resources in the languages of their choice.

#### **We are interested in pursuing ISL, are we required to source an interpreter for the tutor?**

Schools availing of a visiting ISL tutor must check with the prospective tutor if an interpreter is required in advance of engaging them. If that is the case, please note that in line with current and best practice we encourage ISL tutors to limit their use of an interpreter to interact with staff, while teaching the module through ISL. Training is provided to facilitate this.

An additional payment to cover the costs of interpreting will be available up to a maximum of two sessions, to cover school introductions and interactions with staff. Any additional costs for interpretation requirements by visiting ISL tutors as part of teaching and learning, beyond the initial two sessions, will not be covered under the programme and is a matter between the school and the ISL tutor.

### **Does Post-Primary Languages Ireland (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 in delivering the module. These are available [here](#). Training and support will also be provided by PPLI to all participating teachers/tutors.

## **Grant Funding & Payments**

### **How is grant funding allocated for the module?**

Grant Funding is allocated on the basis of the number of participating classrooms:

- 1 classroom, €500
- 2 classrooms, €1000

Schools seeking funding for multiple groups of 5th and 6th class pupils, can list their number of groups in the application form and a decision will be made by a panel, subject to budget. Where funding cannot be granted, these schools can be supported with teaching resources and training provided by PPLI.

N.B. (For funding purposes, two or more year groups combined in one classroom will count as one unit).

### **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.

### **How will visiting tutors be paid?**

Schools are responsible for the administration of the grant, which includes managing visiting tutors' payment.

Please see the Funding and Payment section of [Circular 0031/2025](#) for further details.

### **A teacher/staff member already on payroll is delivering the module, are they entitled to be remunerated with grant monies?**

Schools availing of a member of staff to deliver the programme should commit to using part of the funding to purchase resources or host events in support of the aims of the module. Schools also commit to funding foreign language upskilling courses for any registered teacher on staff as an alternative, or in addition, to those already funded by the Department of Education and available [here](#)

## **Organisation & Duration**

### **What are the term dates for the 2025/26 school year?**

PPLI will inform you whether your school is selected to participate in Term 1 or Term 2 of the school year.

The term dates are as follows:

- Term 1: 29/09/2025 to 06/02/2026
- Term 2: 23/02/2026 to 19/06/2026

**Can our school switch to a different term from the one we were originally designated for?**

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](mailto:primary@ppli.ie) in the case of unforeseen circumstances.

**How long should the module run for?**

Schools should commit to delivering 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.

**Do classes need to be an hour long?**

The module should run for one hour per week for 10 weeks over one 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.

**Can classes take place after school?**

No. Classes must take place during the timetabled school day.

## Teachers/Tutors Selection

**What criteria can help us choose a suitable teacher to deliver the module?**

Schools will need to identify foreign language capacity of the teachers within the school, who will be supported by PPLI/ Languages Connect to deliver the module. Where no capacity exists as yet within the school, schools must identify and secure foreign language teaching capacity within the wider community (e.g. a visiting language teacher, a foreign language assistant from a post-primary school).

**Should the class teacher remain in the classroom with a visiting teacher/tutor?**

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 0031/2025](#) around Garda Vetting and other child protection requirements. Classroom teachers are also encouraged to collaborate with visiting tutors and to participate in the delivery of the module. To facilitate collaboration, find our booklet *Tips for Hosting and Visiting Language Teachers* on our [resources page](#).

**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 0031/2025](#).

## Foreign Language Upskilling Courses

**What is the context for the upskilling courses?**

The redeveloped [Primary Language Curriculum](#), which includes a Modern Foreign Language (MFL) specification, is expected to be published in September 2025 and introduced on a phased basis over a number of years.

In this context, the Department of Education has identified a need for foreign language upskilling of primary teachers, to enhance their existing proficiency in foreign languages and support them in preparation for the implementation of the MFL specification.

Funding has been made available for a foreign language upskilling scheme, that is managed by PPLI/ Languages Connect. Details of the scheme are available on the [upskilling page](#) of our website

Schools participating in Say Yes to Languages are asked to make staff aware of the opportunities offered by the scheme and, where applicable, use part of the Say Yes to Languages grant to fund courses in addition, or as an alternative, to those already funded within the scheme.

**Are foreign language upskilling courses only for teachers delivering Say Yes to Languages, or teachers of 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> class?**

No. Any registered teacher in your school can be put forward to take part in upskilling courses. Please refer to the [upskilling page](#) of our website for further criteria.