**SAMPLE LOCAL PRESS RELEASE – SAY YES TO LANGUAGES – 2025/2026**

**STEPS:**

- Download this file from Languagesconnect.ie

- 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 62,000 primary pupils nationwide 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 fifth year, entering phase two of the module.

Say Yes to Languages has continued to increase in popularity over the past four years, with over 250,000 pupils participating during this time. The module offers pupils and teachers a taste of what it means to integrate additional languages, alongside English and Irish, and also seeks to raise awareness among pupils of the languages spoken in their school environment and local community. Over 1,300 primary schools took part last year alone, 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 continue to be delivered within the normal school timetable over a ten-week period. Speaking about the module, Principal [insert principal’s name] comments, [insert comment – example: “*We are delighted to be part of Say Yes to Languages this year. With [insert number] languages spoken in our school community, this module is a wonderful opportunity for pupils to explore new cultures, develop language awareness and build skills that will benefit them throughout their lives*.”]

 [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] “[Insert comment , example : *This is a fun, interactive and engaging module that fosters a lifelong interest in languages. It helps pupils build confidence, curiosity and communication skills that are essential for their 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 and Youth Helen McEntee, T.D commented, “*The Say Yes to Languages programme has been enormously popular and I am delighted that so many schools have participated in the programme over the last four years and the wide range of languages they have selected.*

*"Learning a foreign language is so beneficial to pupils, it can enrich pupil’s awareness of cultural diversity, as well as support inclusion and wellbeing, contributing to their future learning, career opportunities and help pupil's development as active citizens*.

A suite of resources has been produced by Languages Connect who are overseeing Say Yes to Languages. These include teaching resources 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

**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 Youth 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 or follow us on X, Facebook and Instagram