

Supporting literacy across the curriculum through integrated language learning

Languages Connect is delighted to bring you the fourth in a series of articles that provide insights and practical resources from schools that are embracing the integration of modern foreign language education in the curriculum. In this edition, Isabel Moore provides insights from her classroom.

Making it work

From 2022/24, I taught in Scoil Mhuire, Ballymore Eustace, where I had the opportunity to deliver *Say Yes to Languages* to fourth to sixth class. The structure of the programme worked seamlessly. While I taught Spanish to one class, their teacher would take my class for another subject, ensuring no time was lost. This collaborative approach created a real buzz among staff and pupils alike.

Awareness of interrelations

One of the most exciting aspects of the experience was seeing the transfer of skills. During a literacy lesson focused on etymology, we were exploring common Latin and Greek root words in English – words like ‘scrib/script’ meaning ‘to write.’ One pupil suddenly made a connection



and said, “Miss Moore! Escribir in Spanish means ‘to write!’”

Foreign language upskilling

I completed a Spanish upskilling course through Kildare Education Support Centre in May 2024. It was a fantastic opportunity, not just to refresh my Spanish, but to develop my teaching skills. It was brilliant to practice with other like-minded teachers.

A new adventure

Since then, I’ve moved to a new teaching role in Kerry and the school is also involved in the programme, with French as the chosen language. Even as an observer, it’s clear to see the enthusiasm it generates.

Delivering *Say Yes to Languages* didn’t just add a subject to our timetable, it sparked a whole-school love of languages!



What will the pupils be able to learn?

- Make cross-linguistic connections between English, Irish and Spanish.
- Recognise common Latin root words and apply them across three languages.
- Spot patterns in vocabulary and contribute to a shared classroom resource.

Activity: Multilingual root word detective

What you will need

- Display chart or whiteboard.
- A short list of root words to start.
- Space to add pupil discoveries.

Where will we find the vocabulary?

Start with a root word from an English literacy lesson. From there, pupils investigate how the same root appears in Spanish and Irish. As more words arise naturally during lessons, the chart grows.

Example

Root	English	Spanish	Irish
scrib	describe	escribir	scriobh
form	form	formar	foirm
cent	century	ciento	/

How can we assess what has been learnt?

- Have pupils explain a connection

they’ve made across two or more languages.

- Ask them to find a root word and apply it in three or more languages.
- Create mini challenges, where pupils find words with a common root during reading.

More activities can be found at www.languagesconnect.ie, under the Resources section: *MFL Teacher/Tutor Notes* (pg 11-12), *Language and Languages in the Primary School* (pg 34-39) and *Language Adventures* (pg 11-13).

ISABEL MOORE. For more information about *Say Yes to Languages*, email primary@ppli.ie or visit www.languagesconnect.ie.

