

Say Yes to Languages 2026/2027

Frequently Asked Questions

Contents

Eligibility.....	1
Language Selection	1
Grant Funding & Payments.....	2
Grant Allocation Percentages – Say Yes to Languages (SYTL).....	2
Organisation & Duration.....	3
Teachers/Tutors Selection	4

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 Criteria” section of [Circular 0035/2026](#) 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 continue to be offered to pupils in 5th and 6th class. Schools with multigrade classrooms which include 5th and 6th 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 PPLI/Languages Connect provide a prescribed Say Yes to Languages syllabus for tutors, or can tutors design their own course?

PPLI/Languages Connect has developed a variety of resources to support teachers/tutors in delivering the module, but please note that there is no prescribed syllabus. These resources are available [here](#). Training and support will also be provided by PPLI/Languages Connect to all participating teachers/tutors.

Grant Funding & Payments

How is grant funding allocated for the module?

Grant Funding has changed from other years.

If a school is participating for the first time, funding is allocated based on the number of participating classrooms, as follows:

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

If a school participated in the 2025/2026 school year, it is considered a **reapplying school**, and the grant will decrease by 20% each year starting in 2026/2027. Please refer to the table below:

Grant Allocation Percentages – Say Yes to Languages (SYTL)

School Status	Grant per Class / Group (€)	2026/2027	2027/2028	2028/2029	2029/2030	2030/2031
New schools	€500	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Re-applying schools		80% €400	60% €300	40% €200	20% €100	0

Schools seeking funding for multiple groups of 5th- and 6th-class pupils can list the number of groups on 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. Failure to submit the correct bank details by the deadline may delay grant payments to schools.

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 0035/2026](#) 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 module should commit to using the funding to:

- purchase resources that support the school in the context of the MFL Specification
- fund foreign language upskilling courses for any registered teacher on staff (please note that fully funded courses are facilitated by PPLI/Languages connect. Further information is available [here](#).)
- organise events that meet the aims of SYTL

Is Say Yes to Languages a fully funded programme, and is PPLI/ Languages Connect affiliated with any commercial language providers for this initiative?

Say Yes to Languages is a fully funded programme supported by the Department of Education and Youth and facilitated by Post-Primary Languages Ireland (PPLI)/ Languages Connect.

PPLI/Languages Connect is not affiliated with, nor does it endorse any external providers or commercial organisations in relation to this programme.

Organisation & Duration

What are the term dates for the 2026/27 school year?

PPLI/Languages Connect 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:** 28th of September 2026 to the 5th of February 2027
- **Term 2:** 22nd of February 2027 to the 18th of June 2027

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

We cannot guarantee that changes will be accommodated, but please contact 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 the 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 yet within the school, schools must identify and secure foreign language teaching capacity within the wider community (e.g. a visiting language teacher or 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 0035/2026](#) 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/Languages Connect 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 0035/2026](#).