

# Say 'Yes' to Languages!

## Language sampler module in primary school

**Workshop and Information Session**

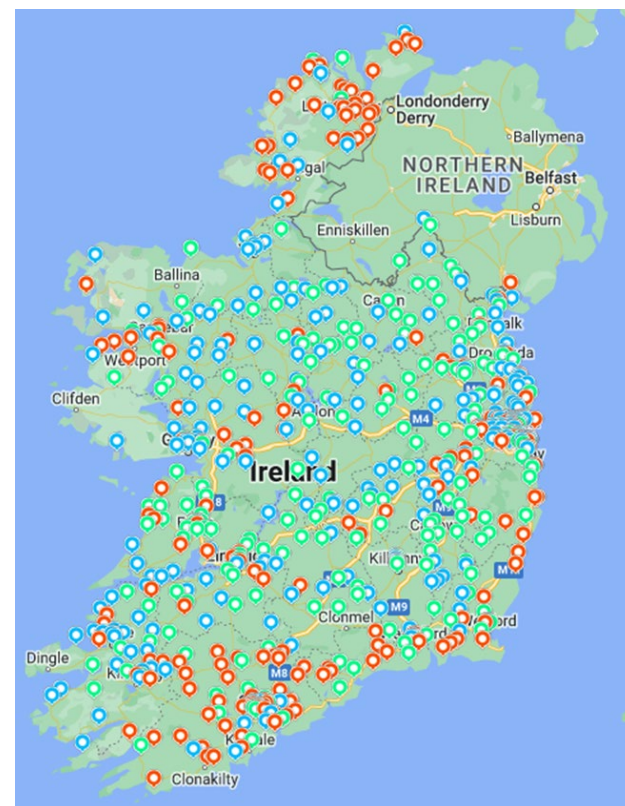
Salvo Cacciato (Education Officer - PPLI)

INTO Education Conference

19 November 2022

# Structure of the session

- Who: Introductions
- Why: The aims of the module
- What: Awareness-raising and teaching resources
- How: Active methodologies and collaborative learning
- Discussion and Q&A



# Who: Introductions



# PPLI and Languages Connect

## PARENT AGENCY



Teangacha  
Iar-bhunscoile Éireann  
Post-Primary  
Languages Ireland

*Diversifying, enhancing and expanding  
the teaching and learning of foreign  
languages at post-primary level.*

*Unit of the Department of Education.  
Established in 2000.*

## STRATEGY

Languages Connect – Ireland's  
Strategy for Foreign Languages  
in Education 2017–2026

Ireland's education system will promote a  
society where the ability to learn and use at  
least one foreign language is taken for granted,  
because of its inherent value for individuals,  
society and the economy.

*Published by the Irish Government in December 2017.*

## AWARENESS CAMPAIGN

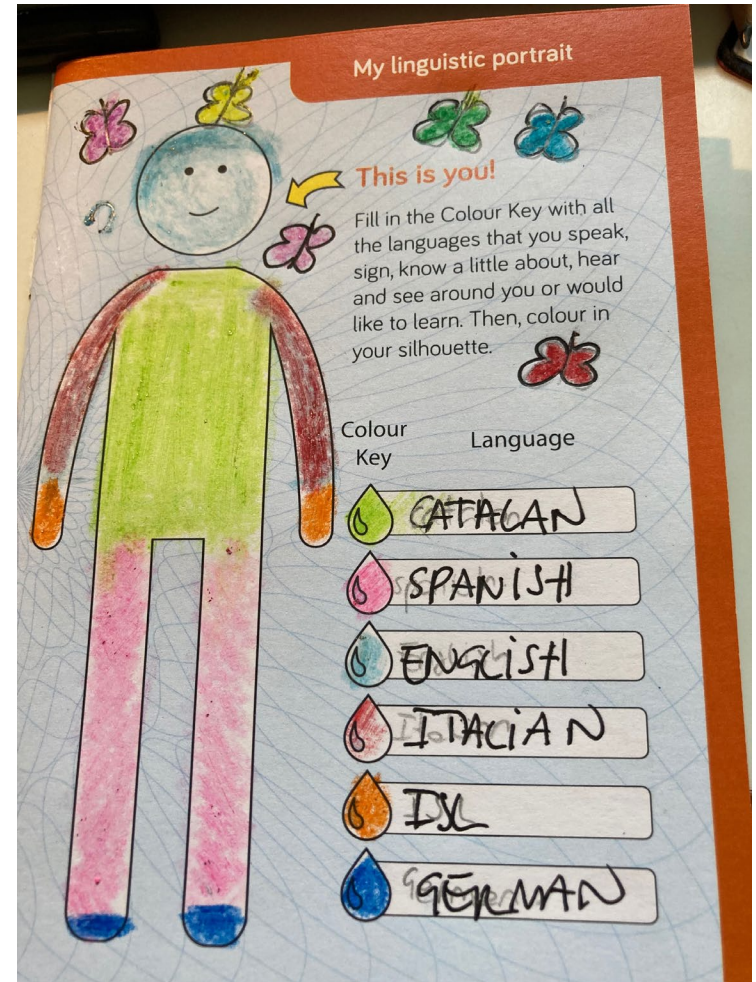
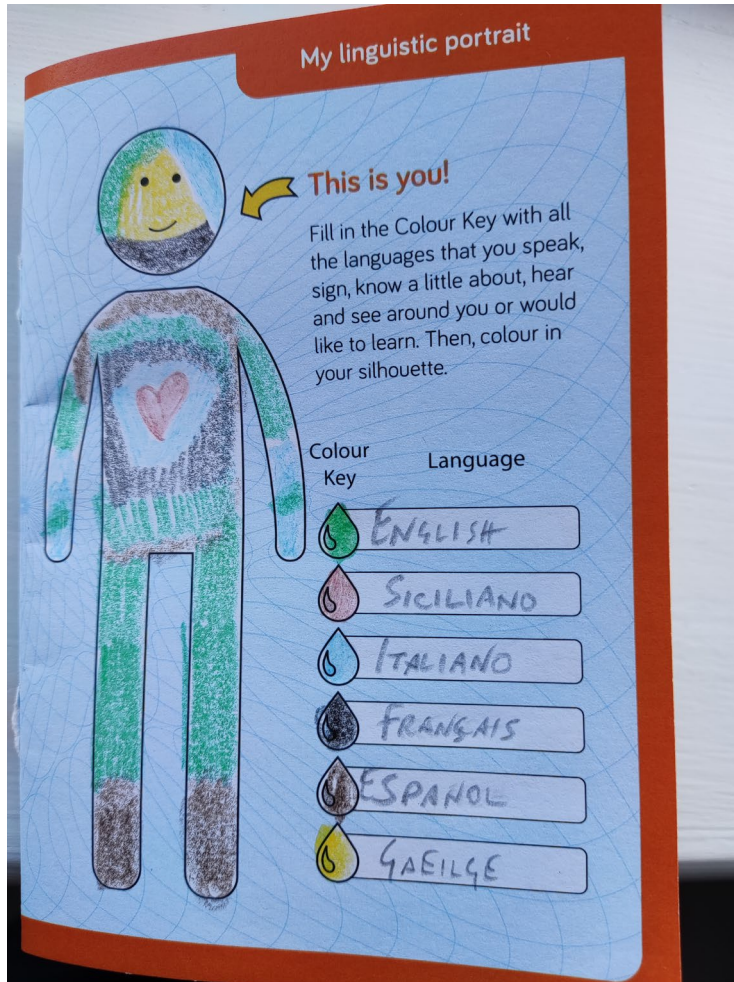


To promote the personal, social, professional  
and economic benefits of foreign language skills  
to principals, teachers, guidance counsellors,  
parents and students, and all stakeholders in  
the third-level sector.

*Facilitated by PPLI since Sept 2018*



# My linguistic portrait

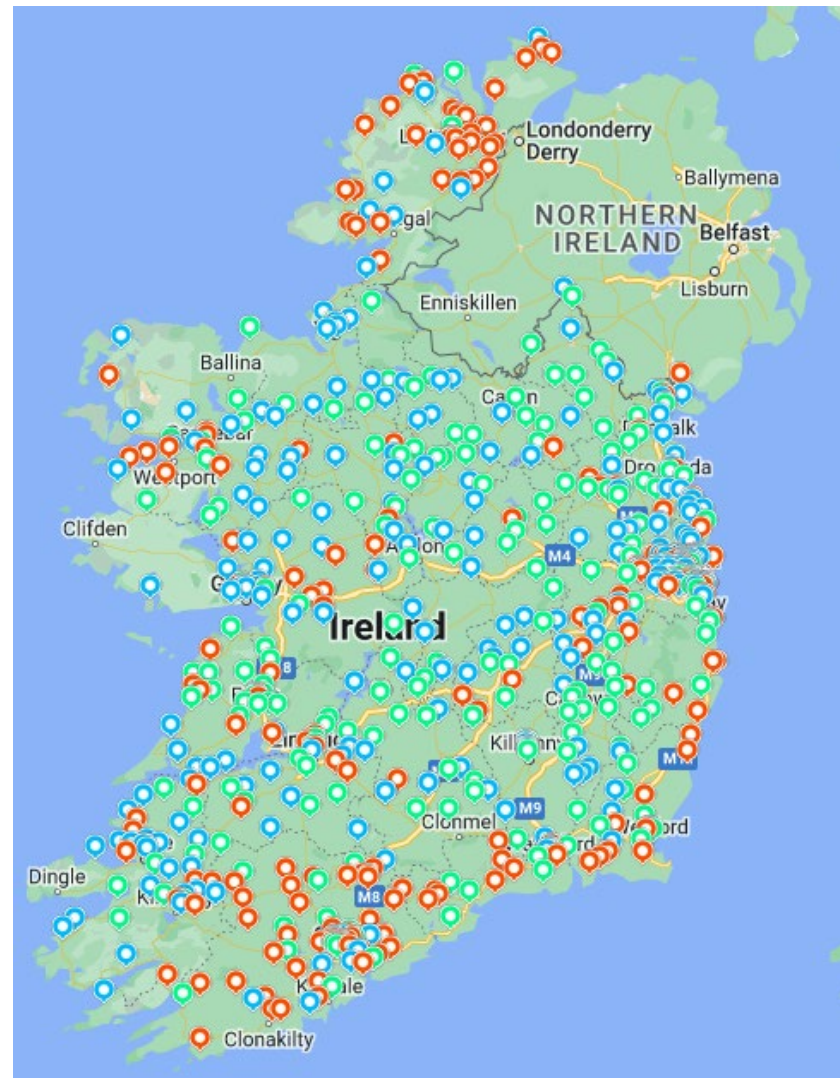


# Say Yes to Languages: year two

- More than 700 schools
- All counties
- Over 50000 students
- 15 languages
- Over 900 tutors registered

## Role of PPLI:

- Help schools to find tutors
- Provide resources, training and support
- Carry out school visits
- Analyse feedback
- Compile reports



## Why: The aims of the module





# The aims of the module



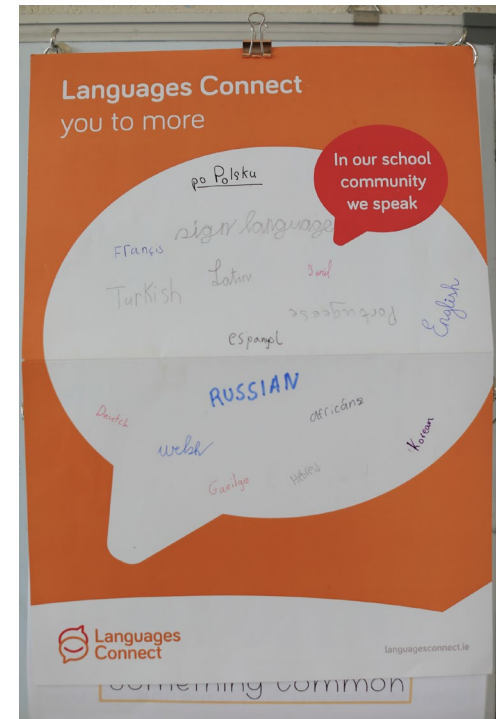
Say Yes to  
Languages

- Generate **awareness** among pupils of the range of languages used by their peers, including Irish Sign Language, in their schools and communities which may help support greater **inclusion** and **appreciation of diversity** in society,
- Encourage **uptake of languages** at post-primary level,
- Provide opportunities for increased levels of **collaboration** among the school community with regard to the celebration of languages and cultures,
- Support **implementation of Languages Connect**, Ireland's [Strategy for Foreign Languages in Education 2017–2026](#)



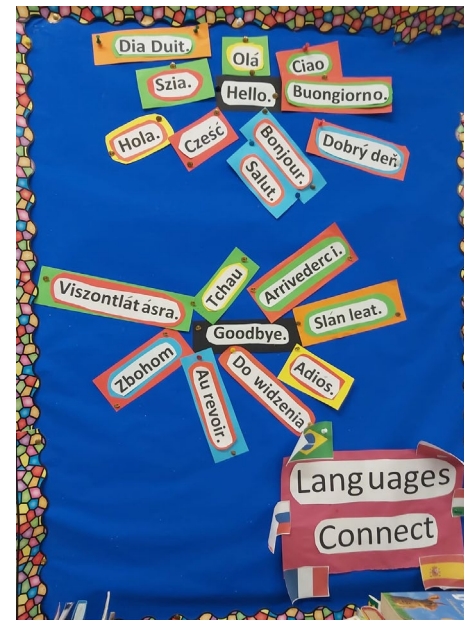
# The aims of the module

1. Generate **awareness** among pupils of the range of languages used by their peers, including Irish Sign Language, in their schools and communities which may help support greater **inclusion** and **appreciation of diversity** in society

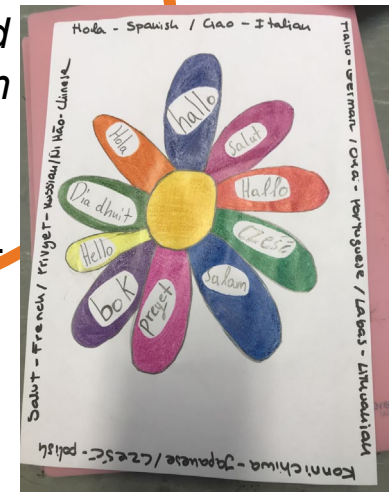


*"We have children from different countries (Poland, Germany, Ukraine) and this opportunity gave them a **chance to speak about their native languages**. It also gave the children who have English as a first language the **experience of what it is like to have to learn a new language** from scratch, this gave them an awareness of what it is like for our pupils with EAL".*

*“Children have become more **aware of** different people speaking different languages and appreciate they may have **different beliefs and cultures**”.*



*“Lots of parents have commented on the children teaching them Portuguese at home too. Being **aware of different languages** around them, getting to know each other better through identification of **different languages and cultures**”.*



# The aims of the module

## 2. Encourage **uptake of languages** at post-primary level



*“Pupils are **more open to learning new languages** and have identified languages that they might want to learn in the future”.*

*“I think it’s brilliant! My son, who I wouldn’t have picked as one for languages was really into it! He would come home and tell me about the new words he’d learned and even quiz me and be delighted when he got an opportunity to correct my pronunciation or something”!*

*“The pupils in other classes and the parents **asked would they be doing other languages too**”.*



# The aims of the module

3. Provide opportunities for increased levels of **collaboration** among the school community with regard to the celebration of languages and cultures

## Saying yes to a new language



Pupils from Réalt na Mara, Rosas Point who will be learning German over the coming weeks.

Forty-seven pupils attending S.N. Réalt na Mara in Rosas Point are learning German under a new initiative.

The new Primary Language Sampler will be starting at the school this month. The sampler module is a means for raising awareness among pupils of the range of languages used by their peers, in their schools and community.

Over 500 schools nationwide are taking part and offering modules in a range of modern foreign languages and Irish Sign Language. The module will introduce the pupils of S.N. Réalt na Mara from third to sixth class to German and will be taught over a six-week period during the normal school timetable.

Language tutor, Sandra Woods is delighted to be involved in sharing her language and experience with the pupils. Sandra, a native German speaker is originally from Berlin and is now living in Rosas Point.

Ms. Dearthla Gill, School Principal: 'This is a wonderful opportunity for our pupils. Learning a new language is an invaluable life skill. Participating in the language sampler module offers an opportunity for the pupils to think in a different way and to

build opportunities for the future. P

"Pupils and staff at our school speak different; this module really helps to build awareness and diversity within the school and community."

German was chosen as the language to learn a pupils in the school have close family ties to Germany and Sligo is twinned with Kempen in Germany.

The module is being rolled out over three terms part of Languages Connect and PPLI (Post-Primary Ireland), a unit of the Department of Education.

A suite of resources has been produced including for teachers and tutors and 'Language Passport' helping pupils to show their family and friend.

Pupils have been sent to participating schools to both the teaching and learning, but also aware of the module.

More information regarding the modules, tutor interest and supports are available at [www.lang.ie/primary](http://www.lang.ie/primary)

## FROM BI-LINGUAL TO MULTILINGUAL

Irish, English and Spanish – Gaelscoil pupils sample new language

NEVER mind bi-lingual, Gaelscoil Bhun Cranncha has gone multilingual over recent weeks with more than 60 pupils from third to sixth class taking Spanish lessons.

The school was one of 500 primary schools across the country to take part in the new 'Primary Language Sampler' from Language Connect that introduced pupils aged from nine to 13 to Spanish through tuition provided by teacher Aisling Walls.

"With so many languages being used now in our local community, this module really helps to build awareness and celebrate the diversity within the school and community," Úna Ní Mhaoileirg Uí Cheallaigh, principal of Gaelscoil Bhun Cranncha explained.

"Research shows that children who attend bilingual schools have the capacity

to learn a third or fourth language more easily. We think Gaelscoileanna are really well-placed to build on our immersion model and to introduce another language to Irish and English," she added.

The module introduced the pupils to Spanish and was taught over a six-week period during the normal school timetable.

Teacher Aisling Walls was delighted to be involved in sharing her language and experience with the pupils, having gained the skills while living in Madrid working as a primary school language teacher from 2005-11.

Aisling has taught Spanish and French in secondary schools around Inishowen since returning to have a family in Ireland herself. She has a love of languages that she likes to share with the pupils she teaches. Her belief is that showing

children other cultures and the importance of communication can create more international awareness, but also help children to become aware of their own culture.

The Gaelscoil pupils were very capable and open to the concept of trying to decipher a new language as they are already immersed in a bilingual education.

Spanish was chosen for this Languages Connect initiative as it is taught in most of the secondary schools in the hinterland and it was seen as an opportunity to prepare the pupils for a smoother transition to second level.

## Newbridge pupils say 'oui' to French

By Stephanie Bergin

SCOIL Mhuire Senior School Newbridge has said 'Oui' to languages, thanks to a new language Sampler Module initiative which was rolled out by the Department of Education during



French tutor Jessica Clifford with sixth class pupils in Scoil Mhuire Senior School in Newbridge



Sixth class pupils say Yes to Languages

***The cooperation with most class teachers (passport activities, active participation of the class teacher during my class which helped promote a love for the language).***



Say **Yes** to Languages

Tips for  
effective  
collaboration

For primary school  
class teachers and  
visiting language  
teachers



 Languages  
Connect

[languagesconnect.ie](http://languagesconnect.ie)



# What: Awareness-raising and teaching resources



# Awareness-raising resources sent to schools



# Teaching resources

## MY LANGUAGE PASSPORT

Say Yes to Languages

languagesconnect.ie

### Primary Language Sampler Module:

vocabulary building activities and games for the MFL and ISL classroom

**Overview:**

There are many activities and games to learn vocabulary in any language in a fun way. We have included a selection of activities, most of which will work for both spoken and signed languages and are suitable to use with young beginner-level pupils. Feel free to adapt those that you might find useful to the context in which you will teach the module.

**Vocabulary Races**

- Divide the class into two or more teams. Ask pupils to line up in front of the board
- Have flashcards, or display a PowerPoint with images on the board
- Call out or sign a word
- Pupil at the front of the line races to the board and touches the matching image
- They then go back to the end of the line and the game continues
- Variation: If there is a native speaker or ISL user in your class you can ask them to call out or sign the words

**What's Missing?**

- Stick flashcards to the board and ask pupils to try remembering them
- Ask pupils to close their eyes and remove a flashcard
- Ask them to open their eyes and ask 'What's missing?'
- Pupils call out or sign the missing flashcard
- This can be played in teams or individually or from a PowerPoint presentation or similar
- To make it more challenging, you can remove two or more flashcards at a time

**Invisible Flashcards**

- Stick nine flashcards to the board and draw a grid around them
- Use a pen or a pointer to drill the nine words. Always point to the flash card you are drilling
- Gradually remove the flash cards but continue to drill and point to the grid where the flash card was, nod your head to encourage children to say or sign the word of the removed flash card
- Pupils should remember and continue as if the flash cards were still there
- This activity highlights the impact of visual aids. It really proves that the images 'stick' to pupils' minds

## Say Yes to Languages

Teacher's Notes

### Primary Sampler Module

Modern Foreign Languages

languagesconnect.ie

### Irish Sign Language

languagesconnect.ie

Say Yes to Languages

languagesconnect.ie

### Primary Language Sampler Module

#### Links to useful resources

The following links might be useful for teachers and tutors delivering the Primary Languages Module. We have grouped them as follows:

- Generic links to methodology ideas, resources and games (applicable to all languages)
- Apps and digital tools (applicable to all languages)
- Language-specific links to websites, portals, online tools and YouTube channels

**Generic links to methodology ideas, resources and games (all languages)**

- British Council Primary Languages Toolkit
- Teaching Ideas
- Freelang
- Online Language Learning

**Apps and digital tools (all languages)**

Classroomscreen offers too

- Classroomscreen
- Classroomscreen.com 1

Quizlet is great for digital flashcards

- Quizlet
- Quizlet Tutorial

**Wordwall and Educandy offer**

- Wordwall
- Wordwall Tutorial
- Educandy
- Educandy Tutorial

**Memrise and Duolingo offer**

- Memrise
- Duolingo

### Primary Language Sampler Module

#### Links to useful ISL resources

The following links might be useful for teachers delivering the Primary Language Sampler Module in ISL. We have grouped them as follows:

- Basic Material
- Vocabulary Resources
- Children's Stories in ISL

**Basic Material**

- A1C in ISL
- A1C in ISL (2)
- What is ISL Linguistics?

**Vocabulary Lists**

- Greetings in ISL
- Greetings & General Conversations for Swimmers in ISL
- Colours in ISL Youtube (1)
- Colours in ISL Youtube (2)
- Colours in ISL Youtube (3)
- Colours in ISL Rainbow Song
- Numbers
- Numbers 1 to 20 in ISL
- Numbers with Short Story
- Telling the Time in ISL
- Days, Months, and Seasons in ISL
- Basic Phrases in ISL
- Emotions in ISL
- Weather Conditions in ISL
- Learn ISL: Place names of Ireland
- Vocabulary for Animals in ISL
- Learn ISL: Vocabulary for Animals at the Zoo
- Learn ISL: Beach Vocabulary
- Learn ISL: Nature Vocabulary
- Learn ISL: Social Media / Technology Vocabulary
- Learn ISL: Cooking & Baking Vocabulary (1)
- Learn ISL: Cooking & Baking Vocabulary (2)
- Song: The National Anthem in ISL

**Children's Stories in ISL**

- Information for Parents/Children and Books in ISL
- Oisín in Tin na nÓg
- The Salmon of Knowledge
- The Crock of Gold
- Children of Lir
- Seagull, Seagull with ISL
- Very Long Room with ISL
- Learn ISL: Vocabulary from The New Small Person by Lauren Child
- Learn ISL: Vocabulary from Mog the Forgetful Cat by Judith Kerr
- Learn ISL: Vocabulary from the Elephant and the Bad Baby by Elfrida Vipont
- Learn ISL: Vocabulary from Wow Said the Owl by Tim Hopgood
- Learn ISL: Vocabulary from the Bath by Leslie Fennell
- Learn ISL: Vocabulary from Baby's Very First Noisy Book by Stella Baggot
- Learn ISL: Vocabulary from the story Aladdin
- Learn ISL: Vocabulary from I'm a Happy Hugglebug by Miamh Shanley
- Learn ISL: Vocabulary from The Very Hungry Caterpillar by Eric Carle



# My Language Passport

**Why learn a language?**

Tick all the circles that apply to you.

- ☒ For pleasure
- ☐ To talk about you
- ☒ To communicate with friends/people who speak or sign that language
- ☐ To discover new cultures
- ☒ To travel or for holidays
- ☐ To prepare for secondary school

**Languages around me**

Insert the names of the languages you speak, sign, hear, read, or write:

At home	With your extended family	In school	In your community
Chinese	Chinese	English	English
		Irish	French
		French	Polish

In shops	On holidays	On tv	On social media
English	Chinese	Korean	Chinese
Chinese	English	English	English
	Japanese	Chinese	Korean

Stamp here

**My own and other languages**

Write in the boxes below some words that are similar in spelling or sound in any languages that you know or are learning.

English	Gaeilge	SPAIN	
Sugar	Siúcra	azúcar	
English	Gaeilge	Spain	French
Mon	Luan	Lunes	Lundi
English	Gaeilge	Spain	
1000	Mile	mil	
English	Gaeilge	Spain	
cheese	cais	queso	
English	Gaeilge	Spain	
School	Scoil	escuela	
English	Gaeilge	Spain	
Nature	nádúr	natura	
English	Gaeilge	Spain	

Stamp here

Radio

Final

conten

banana

menu

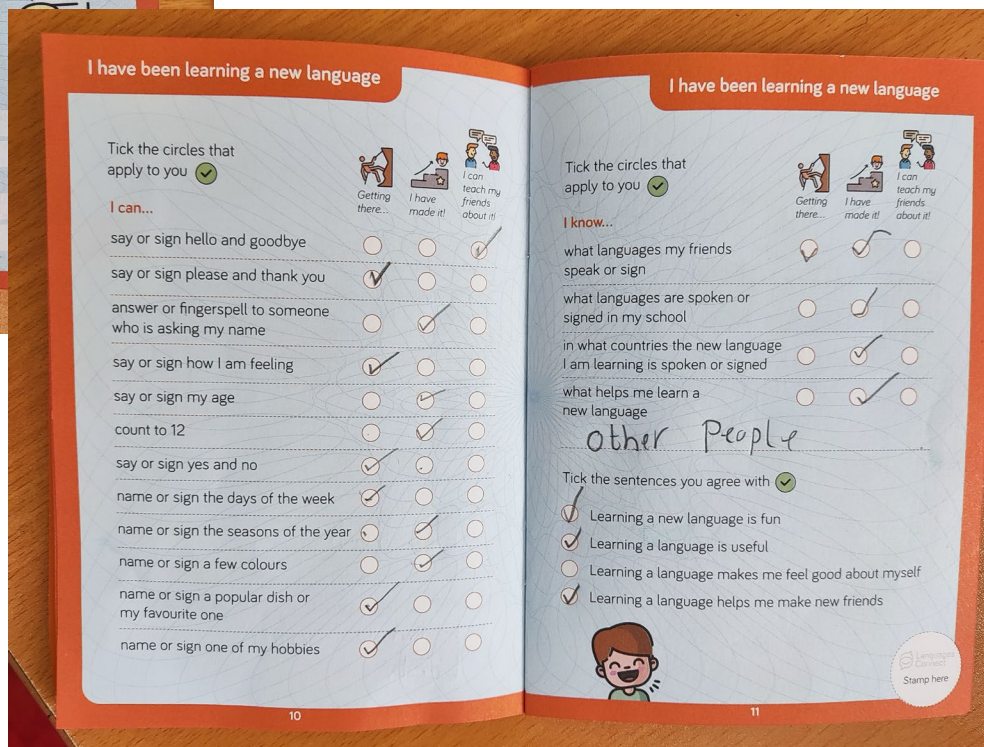
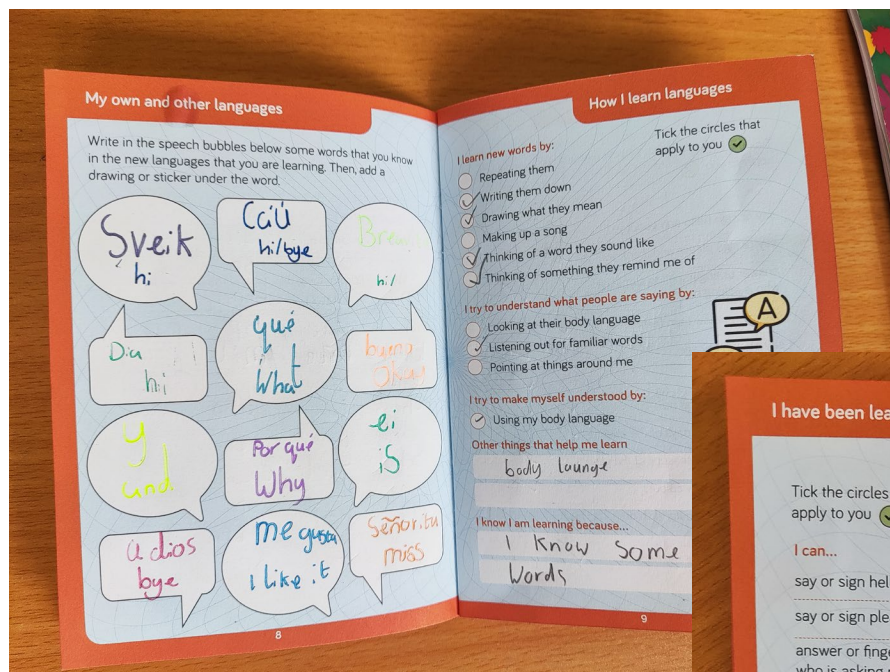
chocolate

hotel

disco

actor

# My Language Passport





# How: Active methodologies and Collaborative learning



- Active Learning
- Collaborative Learning
- Games
- Cross-curricular Links
- Target Language



The children really loved learning ISL. **The teacher conducted the whole lesson today through Irish Sign Language** with no speaking and it was incredible how much the children are picking up and enjoying it.



# Discussion



# The aims of the module



Say Yes to  
Languages



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# InTouch Magazine



**Over 500 primary schools Say Yes to Languages!**

During the 2022/23 school year, over 500 primary schools across the country have joined the primary school language initiative. This is a significant milestone for the initiative, which aims to increase the number of primary schools offering foreign language lessons to their pupils.

The initiative was launched in 2017/18 by the Department of Education and the Foreign Language Institute (FLI). It was a response to the growing demand for foreign language education in primary schools, and to the need to ensure that all children have access to high-quality language learning opportunities.

The initiative is a partnership between the Department of Education and the FLI. It provides schools with a range of resources, including lesson plans, textbooks, and teacher training. It also provides schools with access to a network of experienced language teachers who can provide support and advice.

The initiative has been very successful, and it is hoped that it will continue to grow in the future. It is a great example of how the Department of Education and the FLI are working together to improve the quality of education for all children.

**Website and supporting material**

A dedicated area of the Languages Connect website has been created to support schools in their journey to becoming a 'Say Yes to Languages' school. This area includes a range of resources, including lesson plans, textbooks, and teacher training materials. It also includes a forum where schools can share their experiences and ask for advice.

**Teaching and learning resources**

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## Say Yes to Languages!

### Supporting inclusion through language awareness

The Say Yes to Languages Sampler Module, developed in the context of the NCCA Draft Primary Curriculum Framework (2022), provides a range of resources to support schools in their journey to becoming a 'Say Yes to Languages' school. This module is designed to be used as a starting point for schools to develop their own language awareness programme.

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## Say Yes to Languages!

### Looking back and planning forward



The Say Yes to Languages module was not only a great success, but it also provided a valuable opportunity for schools to reflect on their journey and plan for the future. This reflection and planning process is a key part of the initiative, and it is hoped that it will continue to be a successful one.

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# Over 50,000 primary pupils Say Yes to Languages!

During the 2022/23 school year, over 50,000 primary pupils across the country have joined the primary school language initiative. This is a significant milestone for the initiative, which aims to increase the number of primary schools offering foreign language lessons to their pupils.

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## Say Yes to Languages

### positively impacts school culture

Languages Connect, bringing you the first in a series of articles focusing on schools and teachers who have taken part in Say Yes to Languages, which is rolling out for a second year. Toghra Ghani Principal (Long and programme lead) and teacher Bindi Kulkarni provide an insight into the positive impact the programme has had on their school.

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INTOUCH 10 JUNE 2022



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# Languages Connect website



Participating  
Schools 2021/22

Resources

Teachers and  
Tutors

FAQs 2021/22

## 'Say Yes to Languages' extended for 2022/23

The 'Say Yes to Languages' Primary Sampler Module will be extended for a further year and schools are now invited to apply for funding.

The module facilitates participating primary schools to introduce a Modern Foreign Language or Irish Sign Language (ISL) to their third to sixth class pupils.

The duration of the module will be extended from six to eight weeks for 2022/23. The lessons can take place for up to one hour a week, within the normal timetable.



<https://languagesconnect.ie/primary/>

Email: [primary@ppli.ie](mailto:primary@ppli.ie)

# Thank you



Delivered by



Teangacha  
Iar-bhunscoile Éireann  
Post-Primary  
Languages Ireland

Supported by



Rialtas na hÉireann  
Government of Ireland