



Circular Number 0028/2022

To: Boards of Management and Principals of recognised Primary Schools

“Say Yes to Languages” – Language Sampler Module 2022/23

1. Introduction – Purpose of this Circular

This Circular provides information on the “Say Yes to Languages” – Language Sampler Module for recognised English and Irish medium primary schools including special schools for the 2022/23 school year.

2. Background

In summer 2021, the Minister invited recognised primary schools to express an interest in participating in a six-week primary languages sampler module. Over 500 primary schools responded including over 2,000 classes and 40,000 pupils. The module was rolled out by Post Primary Languages Ireland (PPLI) in three phases: November/December 2021, February/March 2022 and April/ May 2022.

Feedback from the phase 1 schools has been very positive and it is therefore intended to continue to make this module available to primary schools in the 2022/23 school year with some updates and changes based on recommendations and learnings from phase 1.

The policy background for the introduction of a modern foreign language in a redeveloped Primary School Curriculum is found in [Languages Connect – Ireland’s Strategy for Foreign Languages in Education 2017 – 2026](#). The NCCA Background paper [Integrating modern foreign languages in a redeveloped primary curriculum](#) published in 2019 suggests the introduction of a Language Awareness model for Stage 3: 3rd and 4th Classes and a language competence model is proposed as a further option at Stage 4: 5th and 6th classes. [The NCCA Draft Primary Curriculum Framework](#) offers scope for introducing and embedding foreign languages education at primary level.



3. The Module 2022/2023

The Language Sampler Module aims to

- 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 module is for senior classes (3rd, 4th, 5th and 6th class) in primary schools and in 2022/23 it will run for 8 weeks. The school will select the language of choice depending on its demographic and school context.

Languages selected by schools for the module in 2021/22 include: French, Spanish, Irish Sign Language (ISL), German, Italian, Mandarin Chinese, Romanian, Arabic, Lithuanian, Polish, Tamil and Portuguese.

The 2022/23 module could be used to support the integration of newly arrived Ukrainian pupils to our schools, by acknowledging Ukrainian as one of the languages of the classroom or by choosing to teach Ukrainian for the duration of the module.

The classes will take place within the normal school timetable, for a total of 8 hours per classroom, over a period of 8 weeks. Each weekly hour of tuition can be a single, hour-long class or a combination of shorter classes (e.g. two half-hour-long classes) that add up to an hour.

The module can be delivered either by existing teachers in the school or by an individual identified by the school as a suitable tutor (e.g. a language teacher/foreign language assistant in a local post-primary school, a member of the community who is fluent in the chosen language e.g. parent). All language tutors will work under the guidance of the class teacher in terms of advice provided in Circular 0042/2018, around Garda vetting and other child protection requirements.

Schools which participated in the module in 2021/22 are invited to apply again, and also choose a different language if they so wish.



4. Funding

A grant of up to €1,600 will be payable to schools participating in the module as follows:

- €400 for one classroom
- €800 for two classrooms
- €1,200 for three classrooms
- €1,600 for four or more classrooms

Schools will make arrangements with their identified external teacher/tutor for the payment of their work in exchange for an invoice where relevant. Schools and teachers/tutors can refer to the hourly rates specified in the Department of Education's salary scales documentation, accessible from:

<https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/84856-salary-scales/>

Schools using their own staff members to deliver the module will use the grant to fund resources and/ or to finance other activities that support the aims of the module.

5. Training

All participating teachers/ tutors will be provided with training to support them in delivering the module. Training is delivered on-line outside of class time by Post Primary Languages Ireland (PPLI). The school's link person, hosting teachers and management representatives are also encouraged to participate in information sessions provided by PPLI.

6. Resources

All participating classes and teachers/tutors will be provided with the resources necessary to deliver the module.

7. Applications

Before applying, schools should:

- Identify any language of their choice, including Irish Sign Language (ISL)



- make arrangements to secure a language tutor/teacher (e.g. a classroom-based teacher already working in the school, a language teacher/language assistant from a post-primary school /a member of the school/wider community, including pupils' parents/guardians) who is proficient in the target language
- decide on the number of classes they wish to apply for, considering that the sampler module is targeted at pupils in 3rd to 6th class, and that, for funding purposes, a classroom combining two year groups will count as one unit (see the paragraph Funding and Payment below for more details on grant funds)
- commit to encourage their teacher/tutor to participate in training provided by PPLI. The school's link person, hosting teachers and management representatives are also encouraged to participate in information sessions provided by PPLI.

At the time of applying, schools will also commit to:

- Deliver the module within specified timeframes (PPLI will advise whether each school will take part in term 1, 2 or 3 within the school year) and for the full number of hours
- Provide feedback and facilitate school visits by PPLI staff
- Provide details of how they will engage in promotion and dissemination
- Communicate with PPLI for the successful implementation of the module
- Provide any further required details within specified deadlines (e.g. school's bank account details required for the payment of grant funds, for successful applicants)

Further information on the Primary Language Sampler Module, including the resources for the programme are available [here](#)

Schools interested in participating in the module in the 2022/23 school year should apply [HERE](#).

https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/Say_Yes_to_Languages_sampler_module_2022_2023

The closing date for receipt of applications is 5pm on: 11 May 2022.

Please note that the application form link will be deactivated after the deadline. Incomplete applications will not be considered. No applications will be considered after the deadline.



8. Selection

Participation is not guaranteed to all applying schools, and the Department/PPLI will establish a panel to evaluate applications based on the following criteria:

- Submission of a complete application form by the deadline
- Diversity in the target languages applied for
- School has internal staff capacity to deliver the module
- School can provide contact details of teacher/tutor
- School has previously met the requirements of the programme and provided feedback as requested
- School can provide details in support of their application to highlight how they will engage in promotion and dissemination of their chosen language
- School committed to encouraging teacher/tutor and hosting teachers to participate in training
- School committed to providing feedback and facilitating school visits
- Commitment to deliver the module within specified timeframes and for the full number of hours
- Commitment to communicate with PPLI

The Department will seek to ensure that there is a geographical spread of schools and a range of school contexts when finalising the successful applicants. School will be evaluated on the above criteria and priority will be given to schools with the highest marks..

9. Notification

Schools selected to participate in the programme will be notified **by 30/06/2022**

10. Queries

Queries in relation to the “Say Yes to Languages” programme should be e-mailed to: primary@ppli.ie.



Queries in relation to this circular should be e-mailed to:
CAP_helpdesk@education.gov.ie.

This circular may be accessed on the Department of Education website at gov.ie/education.

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19th April 2022