



## **St.Patrick's N.S joins over 500 Primary Schools nationwide saying 'Yes' to Languages!**

Forty-one children from third to sixth class pupils from St. Patrick's N.S. are taking part in the new Primary Language Sampler starting on the 9<sup>th</sup> of February. 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 to French and will be taught over a 6-week period during the normal school timetable.

I appreciate the importance of languages as a life skill, an opportunity for the pupils to think in a different way and build opportunities for the future. With a number of languages being used by the pupils and staff at our school, this module really helps to build awareness and celebrate the diversity within the school and community.

French was chosen as our target language due to our community's traditional ties with Essert in France. The Primary Language Sampler is a way of reigniting interest among the children in St.Patrick's with France and the French culture. Furthermore, French is a language that some of our children will choose to study when they move on to Secondary School.

The module is being rolled out over three terms, with the support of Languages Connect and PPLI (Post-Primary Languages Ireland), a unit of the Department of Education. A suite of resources has been produced including lesson plans for teachers and tutors and 'Language Passports' for all participating pupils to show their family and friends. Packs have been sent to participating schools to help support both the teaching and learning, but also awareness raising objectives of the module. More information regarding the modules are available at [www.languagesconnect.ie/primary](http://www.languagesconnect.ie/primary)

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 facilitated by Post Primary Languages Ireland, as a key objective of the Languages Connect – Ireland's for Foreign Languages in Education 2017 – 2026. \_

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