

Support for Plurilingualism - Languages Connect: Ireland's Foreign Languages in Education Strategy

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PPLI delivering



Supported by



An Roinn Oideachais
Department of Education

Post-Primary Languages Ireland (PPLI)

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.*

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



Languages
Connect

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

Facilitated by PPLI since Sept 2018



Teangacha
Iar-bhunscoile Éireann
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How does Ireland's Foreign Languages Strategy aim to support plurilingualism?

Goal 1: by improving language proficiency and creating a more engaging learning environment

- Plurilingual education is across ALL language learning, e.g., home language/s, language/s of schooling, foreign languages, and migrant languages, it offers access to QUALITY education

Goal 2: by diversifying and increasing the uptake of languages learned and cultivating the languages of the new Irish

- Plurilingualism acknowledges and supports LINGUISTIC DIVERSITY, supporting SOCIAL COHESION

How does Ireland's Foreign Languages Strategy aim to support plurilingualism?

Goal 3: by increasing awareness of the importance of language learning to encourage the wider use of foreign languages

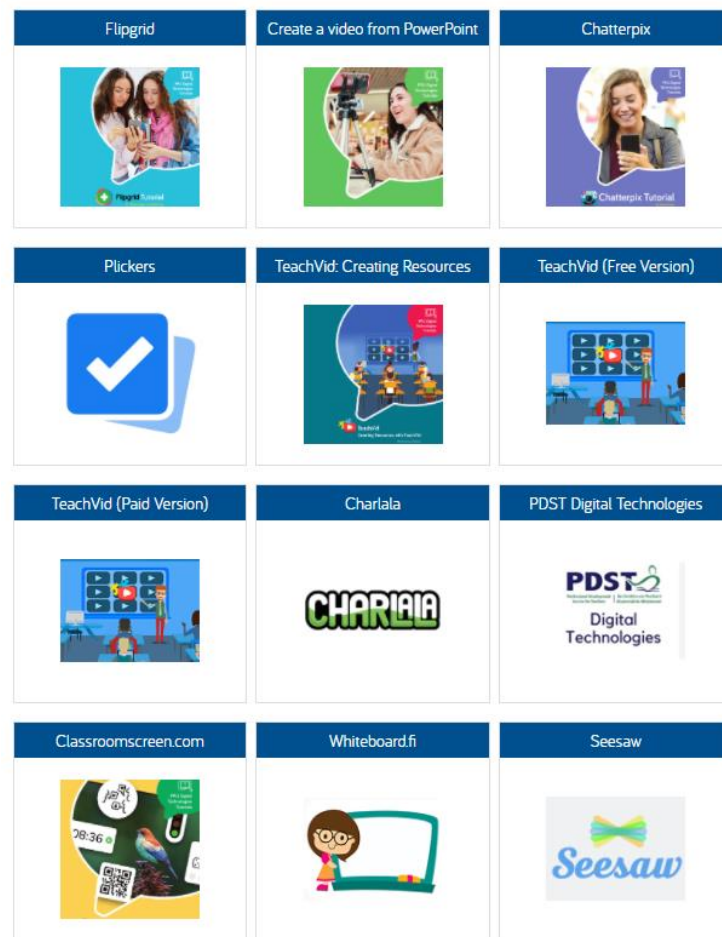
- Plurilingual education offers opportunity for MOBILITY

Goal 4: by enhancing employer engagement in the development and use of trade languages

- Languages Connect focusses on the language skills that will be required of the future workforce

Goal 1: Improving language proficiency and creating a more engaging learning environment

- Focussing on quality
 - Innovative Teaching Methodologies
 - Showcasing good practice
 - Sharing good practice: establishing Communities of Practice
 - Increasing the number of language assistants in our schools and increasing the number of schools participating
 - Carrying out periodic surveys of student attitudes to and experience of language learning



How CLIL supports a plurilingual approach



CLIL provides authentic L2 learning contexts

All resources created to increase language and cultural awareness. Quality cross-curricular materials in foreign languages allow learners to experience language and content differently.

CLIL lessons allow for both language learning opportunities and the development of positive attitudes to the cultures of the L2 speakers.

In the CLIL classroom 'words' are not learnt in isolation but as part of cultural consciousness.

Diversifying and increasing the uptake of languages learned and cultivating the languages of the new Irish

Plurilingualism acknowledges and supports LINGUISTIC DIVERSITY, supporting SOCIAL COHESION



New Curricular Languages (diversifying and valuing new migrant languages)

Chinese

languagesconnect.ie

New!

Mandarin Chinese

Now a curricular language for Leaving Certificate

To read the curriculum specification, go to: <http://bit.ly/LeavingCertChinese>

Why learn Mandarin Chinese?

- Trade between Ireland and China has more than doubled over the past five years
- More than 400 Irish companies have invested in China
- One of the most desired languages to improve your career prospects
- Get access to nearly 20% of all content on the internet that is produced in Chinese
- Get to know a civilisation that has evolved for 3,500 years of written history
- Connect with 10,000 Chinese speakers in Ireland, 1 million in Europe and another 1.3 billion worldwide
- Check out our "Why Learn Chinese" <http://bit.ly/LeavingCertChinese> playlist and get more insights from learners, entrepreneurs and educators!

What does this mean?

- Students can study this curriculum with no prior knowledge of Mandarin Chinese
- First exam will be in 2022 with the option of both ordinary and higher level
- Support for schools introducing Leaving Certificate Mandarin Chinese as a subject will be available from PPL, a Department of Education and Skills unit supporting foreign languages
- Saturday class available in Dublin and Cork for students who do not have access to a teacher! Get in touch with us at <http://bit.ly/LeavingCertChinese>

Have you asked if classes will be available in your school? You can let them know that PPL will support them in offering Chinese as a Leaving Cert subject.

While the Portfolio itself will not be assessed, during the oral examination learners will engage in conversation about their Language Portfolio.

Any questions or for further information, please email: info@ppl.ie




Lithuanian

languagesconnect.ie

New!

Lithuanian

Now a curricular language for Leaving Certificate

To read the curriculum specification, go to: <http://bit.ly/LeavingCertLithuanian>

What does this mean?

- Students can sit the Lithuanian Leaving Cert exam at Higher or Ordinary level
- The new specification is aimed at the same level as existing foreign languages e.g. French, German, Spanish*
- Assessment will now also include oral and listening skills
- It will be examined for the first time in 2022
- Lithuanian will be treated the same as other Leaving Certificate subjects for CAO and matriculation
- Support for schools introducing the new Lithuanian subject will be available from PPL, a Department of Education and Skills unit supporting foreign languages e.g. teachers can be provided
- Students who do not have access to a teacher may have the option of attending a Saturday class or they may choose to study it independently
- Learners will develop a Language Portfolio over the two years in which they will record and reflect on their language learning** Supports will be developed to guide students and teachers on the development of the Language Portfolio

Have you asked if classes will be available in your school? You can let them know that PPL will support them in offering Lithuanian as a Leaving Cert subject.

*** This is broadly aligned with A2/B1 levels of the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR)**

**** While the Portfolio itself will not be assessed, during the oral examination learners will engage in conversation about their Language Portfolio.**

Any questions or for further information, please email: info@ppl.ie




Polish

languagesconnect.ie

New!

Polish

Now a curricular language for Leaving Certificate

To read the curriculum specification, go to: <http://bit.ly/LeavingCertPolish>

What does this mean?



- Students can sit the Polish Leaving Cert exam at Higher or Ordinary level
- The new specification is aimed at the same level as existing foreign languages e.g. French, German, Spanish*
- Assessment will now also include oral and listening skills
- It will be examined for the first time in 2022
- Polish will be treated the same as other Leaving Certificate subjects for CAO and matriculation
- Support for schools introducing the new Polish subject will be available from PPL, a Department of Education and Skills unit supporting foreign languages e.g. teachers can be provided
- Students who do not have access to a teacher may have the option of attending a Saturday class or they may choose to study it independently
- Learners will develop a Language Portfolio over the two years in which they will record and reflect on their language learning** Supports will be developed to guide students and teachers on the development of the Language Portfolio

Have you asked if Polish classes will be available in your school? You can let them know that PPL will support them in offering Polish as a Leaving Cert subject.

*** This is broadly aligned with A2/B1 levels of the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR)**

**** While the Portfolio itself will not be assessed, during the oral examination learners will engage in conversation about their Language Portfolio.**

Any questions or for further information, please email: info@ppl.ie

Portuguese

languagesconnect.ie

New!

Portuguese

Now a curricular language for Leaving Certificate

To read the curriculum specification, go to: <http://bit.ly/LeavingCertPortuguese>

What does this mean?



- Students can sit the Portuguese Leaving Cert exam at Higher or Ordinary level
- The specification is designed to be inclusive of all varieties of Portuguese
- The new specification is aimed at the same level as existing foreign languages e.g. French, German, Spanish*
- Assessment will now also include oral and listening skills
- It will be examined for the first time in 2022
- Portuguese will be treated the same as other Leaving Certificate subjects for CAO and matriculation
- Support for schools introducing the new Portuguese subject will be available from PPL, a Department of Education and Skills unit supporting foreign languages e.g. teachers can be provided
- Students who do not have access to a teacher may have the option of attending a Saturday class or they may choose to study it independently
- Learners will develop a Language Portfolio over the two years in which they will record and reflect on their language learning** Supports will be developed to guide students and teachers on the development of the Language Portfolio

Have you asked if classes will be available in your school? You can let them know that PPL will support them in offering Portuguese as a Leaving Cert subject.

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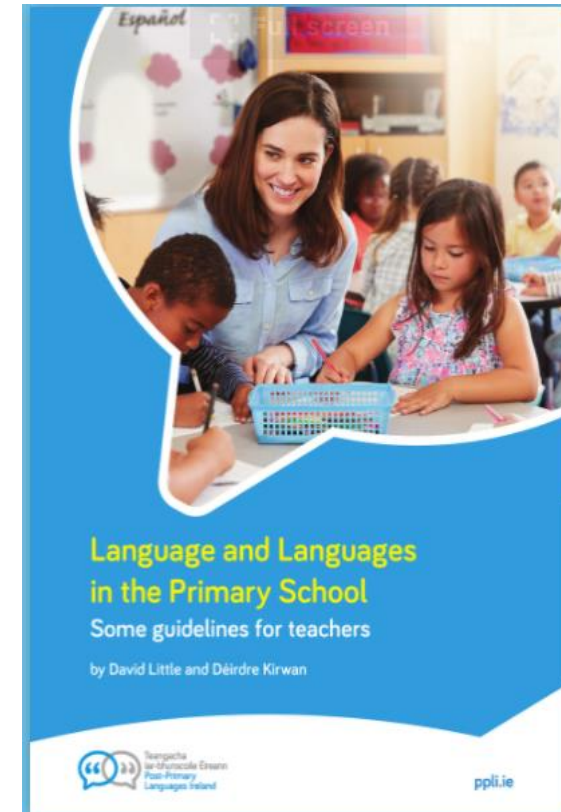
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- Incentivise schools to diversify their provision of languages
- Provide training and CPD for teachers of new languages
- Pilot alternative models of provision for new languages
- Funding for summer camps in heritage and lesser taught languages.
- Funding for library books in heritage/home languages.
- Funding for teachers to upskill and thereby get registered

Supporting plurilingual learning in primary school

- Guidelines for schools and teachers on supporting plurilingualism
- Integrated pedagogical approach
- Activities and strategies for including the home language in delivery of the curriculum
- Consolidating plurilingual learning



Introducing MFL in primary

The aims of the module support plurilingualism.

- Generate awareness among pupils of the range of languages used by their peers, in their schools and communities
- Support greater inclusion and appreciation of diversity
- In the Language Passport, we have included several opportunities for pupils to reflect on and compare all the languages around them (including English and Irish)

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

 In shops	 On holidays	 On tv	 On social media

Stamp here

Teachers encouraged to support plurilingualism

Some examples of suggested activities:

- Multilingual chart/poster of all the languages in their class
- Multilingual town, with buildings labelled in all the languages in their class
- Multilingual number cards
- Multilingual cards or poster with the days of the week



Say Yes to Languages

- This branding was chosen to underline the importance of all languages, and resources are in a variety of languages
- The poster “In our school community we speak” is a powerful visual for everyone in school, also including visitors, of the range of languages and the value placed on these languages



An Intercultural Look at Our Schools (ILAOS)

- This is [a toolkit](#) which enables schools to set up a tailor-made, whole-school strategy to support the development of students' competences in the language(s) of schooling. It supports school with addressing inclusion by providing resources for self-evaluation in the area of intercultural and linguistic diversity.

120+
Nationalities in
Ireland

182+
different
languages are
spoken across
Ireland

12% +
students in post-
primary speak a
language other
than English or
Irish at home

18%
of students in
post-primary
schools have a
diverse cultural
background

Goal 3: Increase awareness of the importance of language learning to encourage the wider use of foreign languages.

Plurilingual education offers opportunity for
MOBILITY



Languages Connect

Raising awareness in a multitude of ways

- #ThinkLanguages – annual TY celebration of languages with fun workshops, speakers, competitions and activities
- Supports and resources for Guidance Counsellors
- Languages Connect social media campaigns – videos, competitions, tips and language learning advice
- Promotional materials and videos for teachers, students and guidance counsellors
- Student, Teacher, Guidance Counsellor, Principal events and conferences
- Culture Night Languages Taster Classes in collaboration with the EU Commission



- Languages Connect social media campaigns
- videos, competitions, tips and language learning advice
- Say 'Yes' to Languages
- Language Days
- #ThinkLanguages 2020 both in classroom and online
- Language ambassadors
- Working with languages



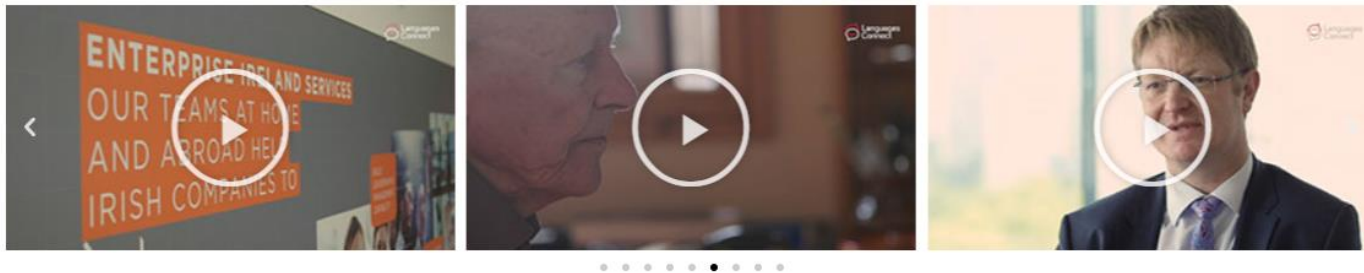
Goal 4: Enhance employer engagement in the development and use of trade languages

Languages Connect focusses on the language skills that will be required of the future workforce



Video case studies

Industry Experts



Working with languages



Collaboration with relevant stakeholders

Work Experience resources for school pupils and students to include language skills and language awareness in work placement (working with National Centre for Guidance in Education)

Providing Webinars for school pupils and students on why languages are important (working with Business In The Community)

Providing Ideas to schools and employers on how to encourage partnerships between post-primary schools and local employers

The essence of
Ireland's Foreign
Languages in
Education Strategy is
that plurilingualism is
achievable and
therefore promoting it
is a feasible aim



For Additional Info

- Ireland's Strategy for Foreign Languages in Education [here](#)
- For teaching and learning resources: www.ppli.ie
- For Awareness Raising www.languagesconnect.ie



Thank you