

Rush National joins over 500 Primary Schools nationwide saying 'Yes' to Languages!

Over 118 sixth class pupils from Rush National School are taking part in the new Primary Language Sampler which started in 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 in their community. Over 500 schools nationwide are taking part and offering modules in a range of modern foreign languages and Irish Sign Language. Rush National School has selected the Irish Sign Language (ISL) module. The module will introduce the pupils to Irish Sign Language (ISL) and be taught over a 6-week period during the normal school timetable.

Caroline Wilson, ISL tutor for Rush National School, is delighted to be involved in sharing her language and experience with the pupils, having gained the skills as a Deaf student, now teacher, at the former St Marys School for Deaf Girls, now Holy Family School for the Deaf, Cabra.

School Principal, Morgan Doran, is fully behind the initiative - '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. This module really helps to build awareness and celebrate the diversity and inclusivity within the school community'.

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 friend. 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, tutor expression of interest and supports are available at www.languagesconnect.ie/primary