

Foreign Languages Advisory Group (FLAG)

Terms of Reference

Terms of Reference for the Foreign Languages Advisory Group to support the implementation of Languages Connect – Ireland’s Strategy for Foreign Languages in Education 2017 – 2022

Role

1. *Languages Connect – Ireland’s Strategy for Foreign Languages in Education 2017 – 2026*, was published in December 2017, with an accompanying Implementation Plan, with the aim to put Ireland in the top ten countries in Europe for the teaching and learning of foreign languages, through a range of measures targeted at improving language proficiency, diversity and immersion. The strategy stated that a Foreign Languages Advisory Group (FLAG) would be set up to oversee and monitor its implementation.

2. The role of Foreign Languages Advisory Group (FLAG) will be to:

- provide a forum for discussion on current policy implementation and future direction/priorities;
- build partnerships and mobilise stakeholders;
- bring together key stakeholders to provide advice from a range of perspectives in order to support the implementation of the Strategy;
- monitor and support progress on the roll out of policy elements/actions in the Strategy and Implementation Plan;
- pre-empt and identify challenges and opportunities to support the effective implementation of the Strategy and advise how best to respond;
- address any other relevant Foreign Language Policy implementation issues which may arise from time to time;
- produce an Annual Report to the Minister for Education and Skills on progress in implementation;
- provide guidance in the development of a communications strategy to encourage language learning

Membership

1. The Foreign Languages Advisory Group (FLAG) will be chaired by a member of the Management Board of the Department of Education and Skills (DES). The secretariat will be provided by the Curriculum and Assessment Policy Unit (CAP) of DES.



2. Membership of the Advisory Group will include representatives nominated by relevant stakeholders. The composition of the Group will be as follows:

Government Departments	Department of Education and Skills (Chair)	Ruth Carmody (Chair); Curriculum and Assessment Policy (Eamonn Moran, Leona De Khors, John Harper, Niamh Houlouhan); Teacher Education (Eddie Ward); Inspectorate (Maria Lorigan); Higher Education (Trudy Duffy, Rebekah Maguire); International (Alan O'Callaghan); Skills, Planning and Enterprise Engagement (Joanne Tobin)
	Department of Business, Enterprise and Innovation	Kevin Daly
	Department of Foreign Affairs	Alma Ní Choighligh
Languages	PPLI	Karen Ruddock
	Language Expertise	Dr Celine Healy
		Dr Deirdre Kirwan
Curriculum	NCCA	Evelyn O'Connor
Examinations	SEC	Anne Marie Manton
Employers	IBEC	Sylvia Guadino
Higher Education (incl. Mobility)	Higher Education Authority	Gerry O'Sullivan
Mobility	Léargas	Emma Grainger
Schools	National Association of Principals and Deputy Principals (NAPD)	Regina Butler
	Language Teacher Professional Networks	Salvo Cacciato/Wilma Slevin
Students	Irish Second-Level Students Union	Colin Clarke
Parents	National Parents Council	Geoff Browne

3. The Membership of the Group will be reviewed during the lifecycle of the implementation of the Strategy to ensure continued relevance and additional members may be co-opted onto the Group as the need arises.

Invitations to attend will be cleared through the Chairperson. Sub-groups may be formed to work on specific issues emerging from Advisory Group meetings. Such sub-groups will report into the Advisory Group.

4. The Group will meet up to four times a year.



5. The Agenda and Minutes of all meetings of the Foreign Languages Advisory Group (FLAG) will be published on the Department of Education and Skills website in accordance with the provisions of the Regulation of Lobbying Act, 2015.

