

An tAonad um Beartas  
Curaclaim agus Measúnachta,  
An Roinn Oideachais agus  
Scileanna,  
Sráid Mhaoilbhríde  
Baile Átha Cliath 1



Curriculum and Assessment  
Policy Unit,  
Department of Education and  
Skills  
Marlborough Street  
Dublin 1

## To Principals of Post-Primary Schools

The Department of Education and Skills, the public library service and Libraries Development, Local Government Management Agency are holding the **A Poem for Ireland Poetry Competition** for post-primary schools, as part of the commemoration events for Ireland 2016.

### ***A Poem for Ireland Competition Format***

#### **Round One: School Competition, 6<sup>th</sup> January 2016 – 29<sup>th</sup> February 2016**

Students in each post-primary school year are invited to submit a poem on Ireland past and / or present for the competition to the Year Head before the **29<sup>th</sup> of February 2016**. Poems may be submitted in English or Irish and must be original works.

29<sup>th</sup> February - 4<sup>th</sup> March 2016: The winning entry for each year should be submitted to your local library branch (see <http://www.librariesireland.ie/services-to-schools/post-primary-schools/> for branch details) by the **4<sup>th</sup> of March 2016**.

#### **Round Two: County Competition, March 2016**

A judging panel set up by the local library service will adjudicate on all schools' winning entries. A county winner will be selected and announced at an awards event hosted by the public library service.

#### **Round Three: National Final, April 2016**

County winners will be reviewed by a national panel of judges set up by Libraries Development, LGMA and shortlisted to eight national finalists. A national final will take place in April 2016. The national panel of judges will assess each of the eight entries on the day and will award a national winner. A national dignitary will attend and present the prize to the overall winner.

#### **Prizes**

**All prizes at local level will be determined by each local authority individually.**

**National Winner: €1,000**  
**National Runner Up: €500**  
**National 3<sup>rd</sup> prize: €250**  
**National Finalists: €50 vouchers**

All finalist entries will be uploaded to [www.librariesireland.ie](http://www.librariesireland.ie), [www.askaboutireland.ie](http://www.askaboutireland.ie) and [www.scoilnet.ie](http://www.scoilnet.ie). For competition posters, further information, terms and conditions, see [www.librariesireland.ie/services-to-schools](http://www.librariesireland.ie/services-to-schools).

Breda Naughton  
Principal Officer  
Curriculum and Assessment Policy Unit

Annette Kelly  
Head  
Libraries Development, LGMA