



WRITING **READING** and **PERFORMANCE POETRY**

JCSP Library Project / Poetry Ireland WRaPParound Initiative 2016/2017

What is WRaPParound?

WRaPParound – Writing, Reading and Performance Poetry

Set up in 2013, **WRaPParound** is a JCSP Library Project performance poetry initiative run in conjunction with Poetry Ireland and Trócaire. Participating students in each school work with an established poet/rapper over a full day or over a series of shorter workshops during which they write, edit, recite and/or record their own work.

This spoken-word poetry initiative introduces students to writing, reading and reciting poetry in a new way. Through being encouraged to craft poems based on their own ideas and experiences, students find a new way into poetry.

Writing, listening to and creating spoken word poetry and rap songs gives students an understanding of the power of language. The ability to write their own poems, to stand up and perform their poems or to rap quickly and clearly contributes to the development of writing, oral language and listening skills.

WRaPParound 2016/2017

A total of 27 schools and over 400 students from around the country took part in the 2016/2017 initiative which culminated in **WRaPParound Wrap** celebration events which took place in University College Cork on the **27th April** and in Trinity College Dublin on the **4th May 2017**. These celebratory events involved the coming together of a selection of students from across the participating schools, together with their librarians, teachers and principals. Both were wonderful occasions and the students from all of the participating schools, who got up on stage and performed their poems/raps to a large audience, did both themselves and their schools proud. An added bonus this year was that participating school groups were invited to take guided campus tours following the WRaPParound event - facilitated by UCC+ in UCC and TAP/College Aware in TCD.

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WRaPParound the World

Through the support of **Trócaire's Mobilising for Justice Scheme**, we were delighted to introduce the **WRaPParound the World** strand to the initiative. Under this strand a selection of schools received grant aid to engage a poet/performance artist to work with their students to produce poems and raps on the chosen Trócaire theme. This year's theme was '**Before the Flood**' (Climate justice, Migration, Global justice, Human rights, etc.).

Participating Poets

The following wonderful and inspiring group of professional poets and rap artists worked on the WRaPParound initiative this year:

Garry McCarthy (GMC Beats)
Colm Keegan
Stephen James Smith
Stephen Murray
Elayne Harrington (Temper-Mental MissElayneous)
Ciarán Smith (funded by Crosscare)

This was the sixth year of the **WRaPParound** initiative. Experience to date has demonstrated that participation in this spoken word poetry education initiative can strengthen students' literacy skills, can engage reluctant writers and can develop the student voice and emotional literacy. The very real impact of the initiative on student engagement with their learning and on their confidence and self-belief has been evident throughout.

Click [\[HERE\]](#) to view an informational video on **WRaPParound**

For further information on **WRaPParound** please contact
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