



Fable Forge

Child Safeguarding Statement

Developed in line with the Children First Act 2015, Children First: National Guidance, and Tusla's Child Safeguarding: A Guide for Policy, Procedure and Practice.

1. Name & Nature of Service

Service Name	Fable Forge	Operator	Ruairí McNicholas (Sole Trader)
Address	Donaghpatrick, Headford, Galway, H91V2T7	Phone	+353 86 730 4673
Email	hello@fableforge.ie	Website	fableforge.ie
Statement Date	June 2026	Review Date	June 2028

Fable Forge provides facilitated tabletop roleplaying (Dungeons & Dragons) and social deduction game sessions for children and young people aged 9–16. Sessions take place at private residences (with a hosting adult present), afterschool centres, schools, and community organisations across Galway and the west of Ireland. The welfare and interests of every young person participating in Fable Forge activities is paramount in all circumstances.

2. Principles

Fable Forge is committed to ensuring that regardless of age, gender, disability, race, religion, sexual orientation, or any other characteristic, all young people have a positive, enjoyable, and safe experience. Our safeguarding principles are:

- The welfare of the child is the first and paramount consideration in all decisions.
- All children have the right to be protected from harm, abuse, and exploitation.
- No child will be placed in a situation of undue risk.
- All concerns about the welfare of a child will be taken seriously and responded to promptly.
- Fable Forge will work in partnership with parents, guardians, and host organisations at all times.

3. Risk Assessment

The following assessment of potential harm to a child while availing of Fable Forge services has been carried out, together with procedures in place to manage each identified risk.

Risk Identified	Procedure in Place
Physical, psychological or emotional harm between participants	Clear code of conduct read at the start of every session. Cooperative play rules enforced. Bullying or deliberate harm to other participants results in immediate session pause and parental contact.
Risk of sexual abuse — facilitator to child	Garda NVB vetting completed per organisation before commencement. Open-door policy at all times. No one-to-one contact between facilitator and any child. Host adult present throughout every session.
Inappropriate digital communication between facilitator and young person	Zero direct digital contact with participants. All communication routed exclusively through parents or guardians. No social media contact or private messaging with young people.
Isolation of a child with the facilitator	Sessions never conducted one-to-one. Host adult present throughout. Activity room door open or ajar at all times.
Risk of harm through photography or recording	No photography or recording of participants without explicit written parental consent. No images of children shared on any platform without consent.

Child presents with undisclosed welfare concern

Any disclosure or observed welfare concern reported immediately to the host organisation's Designated Liaison Person and, where appropriate, to Tusla in line with Children First procedures.

4. Procedures

Management of allegations

Any allegation of abuse or misconduct against the facilitator or any other party will be reported immediately to the host organisation's Designated Liaison Person and to Tusla. The facilitator will step back from all activities pending investigation.

Safe recruitment

Garda NVB vetting is obtained from each organisation prior to commencement of work. Vetting is renewed in line with each organisation's requirements and at a minimum every three years. References are available on request.

Safeguarding training

The facilitator holds the following safeguarding training: (1) Tusla Children First online training (childrensfirst.ie); (2) Scouting Ireland 'On my Honour' safeguarding eLearning programme. Training is reviewed and renewed every three years or sooner if required.

Reporting concerns to Tusla

Any concern about the welfare of a child is reported to the host organisation's Designated Liaison Person. Where a mandated report is required, this will be made to Tusla directly. The facilitator will cooperate fully with any Tusla assessment.

Mandated persons

Fable Forge has no employees or volunteers. The facilitator (Ruairí McNicholas) is not a mandated person under the Children First Act 2015.

Relevant person

Ruairí McNicholas is the relevant person under the Children First Act 2015 and the first point of contact regarding this Child Safeguarding Statement. Contact: hello@fableforge.ie / +353 86 730 4673.

5. Implementation & Review

Fable Forge is committed to the ongoing implementation of this Child Safeguarding Statement. This statement is displayed publicly at fableforge.ie and is available to parents, guardians, Tusla, and members of the public upon request. It will be reviewed by June 2028 or sooner if there is a material change in any matter to which it refers.

6. Sign-Off

Signed (Provider / Relevant Person):

Printed Name:

Date:
