

Occasional Adult Helpers

in Foróige Clubs



Thanks for helping out!

What this club is about

Foróige Clubs are a safe, enjoyable place for young people to hang out, meet new friends, get involved in activities and have a voice. What makes a Foróige Club different to other youth clubs is that it is run by the young people themselves, with support from a team of regular volunteer adult leaders, who are trained and vetted by Foróige and for whose commitment we are hugely thankful. Some clubs also involve other adults from time to time as occasional helpers. This leaflet explains what those helpers do.

The Occasional Adult Helper

An Occasional Adult Helper is a parent or recent club member now aged over 18, who helps out occasionally in support of the regular volunteer adult leaders.

How adults behave towards young people

We believe in, and respect young people as unique individuals. They are able to have a say, to take responsibility, to care for others, be creative, solve problems, to learn and grow.

At Foróige you will show respect for young people in how you interact with them. You will encourage and welcome, and praise achievement.

The club may have rules agreed to by the young people and adults, which refer to phone use, smoking /vaping, bad language, bullying, mocking, fighting, etc. Adults follow the same rules as the young people.

We also show respect for other adults in the club in the same way.

What you can do

As an occasional helper, you can be involved up to three times a year in Foróige, and not more than once each term (September to Christmas, January to Easter, Easter to summer). Your role may include:

- Assisting the leaders in supervising activities.
- Monitoring entrances and exits.
- Travelling on buses with the leaders and young people.
- Assisting leaders with club trips (you cannot go on an overnight trip or attend 'stay awakes' without garda vetting). For big trips and interclub events you will be asked to attend a meeting with the other leaders to clarify your role.
- Telling leaders if you have concerns about safety or behaviour.
- Sitting in on the club meeting.

Limits to the role

Occasional Adult Helpers may not:

- Be involved in coaching, mentoring, counselling, teaching or training young people.
- Lead programmes, activities or recreation in the club.
- Attend Foróige without at least an equal number of vetted leaders present.
- Be responsible for the supervision of young people except with vetted and trained leaders.
- Be alone with young people.
- Discipline young people (refer to a leader instead).
- Represent the club.

Child protection

The welfare and protection from harm of young people is the highest priority in everything we do. There is a Child Safeguarding Statement displayed in the club premises and on our website. Please read it.

If you have a child protection concern, refer the matter to the Club Leader or another vetted and trained adult.

Can I become a full leader?

Yes! Occasional adult helpers can complete our volunteer application process and training to be considered for a role as a volunteer adult leader. Please let the club leader know so they can contact staff on your behalf.



