



Learning to Fly: What You Need to Know and Consider

So, you're thinking about taking up RC flying? You're going to love it! But, before you sign up (and before we take your money!), there are a few important points we'd like you to consider.

Costs and Equipment

RC flying isn't the cheapest of hobbies. To make steady progress and fly solo within a few months, you'll need, as a minimum, a model plane, transmitter, receiver, battery charger, and batteries. While second-hand options are often available, you should check with experienced club members who can advise, and budget **£350+** for a basic starter setup. We recommend seeking advice from the club prior to making any purchases to ensure suitability.

Crashes and Repairs

Unfortunately, RC planes *do* crash, especially when you're learning!

Some practical skills are needed to carry out repairs, and severe crashes can destroy a model beyond repair.

A calm attitude and a willingness to learn from each mishap are part of the journey - we've all done it! Advice for repairs is always available, and assistance is often offered if required.

Time and Commitment

Most trainees find flying harder than they expect. The hobby takes time and consistent practice.

Depending on how naturally it comes to you, it can take anywhere from **three to twelve months** to achieve your **BMFA A Certificate** (your 'solo' qualification). Progress requires **regular lessons**, ideally **at least twice a month**, weather and instructor availability permitting. Irregular attendance, for example school holidays only, will make progress very slow.

Instructor Availability

Our instructors are volunteers and they generously give their time to help new pilots learn to fly. For this reason, we look for students who are **committed, reliable, and able to attend regularly**. Instructor time is limited, especially at weekends, and we want to ensure those who are ready to train consistently have the opportunity to do so.

Under-18 Pilots

Any student pilot under the age of **18 must be accompanied by a parent or guardian at all times**. For safeguarding reasons, **minors cannot be dropped off and collected later**.

What You Will Learn

This hobby isn't just about flying your model. You will need to learn your legal responsibilities, how to set up your transmitter and model, safety procedures, pre-flight checks, communicating with other flying pilots and repair techniques. Whilst we encourage a 'have-a-go' attitude, there will also be lots of advice and guidance available.

The Reward

Learning to fly is great fun, but the *real* enjoyment begins once you've passed your A Test, take to the skies solo, and really start to progress. The points above hopefully ensure you're aware of the **financial** and **time** commitments involved before you start this fantastic hobby.

If this still sounds like your kind of adventure, we can't wait to help you learn to fly!