



Ragtag Pottery Membership Agreement

Our ceramic studio is open to anyone with enough experience to work independently and safely. The studio is based upstairs at our Mealbank building across three rooms.

Induction

Everyone using the Pottery Studio must complete an induction before using the space. This is an informal introduction where we will show you around, explain how the studio works and let you know what equipment and facilities you have access to.

Membership

- Full Membership – £95 per month* Includes 3 x three-hour sessions per week.
- Part Membership – £50 per month* Includes 1 x three-hour session per week.

*All members commit to an initial 4-month membership period. After this, you must give one full calendar month's notice if you wish to cancel your membership.

Payment

An invoice will be sent at the beginning of each month. Please pay by BACS on the 1st of each month.

Your membership includes:

- Use of the hand tools available in the studio
- Use of the potter's wheels
- Your own storage shelf for work in progress
 - Full members have 2 shelves
- Communal storage space for 1 bag of clay
- Access to communal firings (charges apply, see website)
- The option to hire the whole kiln (charges apply, see website)

Members need to provide their own:

- Clay
- Glazes
- Slips
- Oxides

We do sell a small selection of clay

Membership does not include:

- Space to store or recycle your own clay
- Additional storage for equipment, work, glazes or clay

Kiln Use

We have one 165-litre kiln available to hire for both members and non-members. The kiln can be booked as a full kiln or by the shelf. To hire the full kiln, please speak to one of the pottery team. For shelf firings, place your work on a tray in the kiln room with a completed kiln slip clearly attached. We will then include your work in the next suitable communal firing. Communal firings are available for bisque and earthenware firings only.

Loading

- The kiln will be loaded by a trained technician.

Type of Work

- All work must be bone dry. We will not slow-fire work that is still wet.
- We do not fire combustible materials, raw glazed work, or found/wild clay due to the risks and variables involved.
- No oxides, stains, or glaze on the base of work.
- If you are unfamiliar with the glaze you are using, we ask that your work is fired on cookies/patties to protect kiln shelves.

Firing & Damages

- We are happy to advise on firing schedules where possible, but it is your responsibility to ensure your work, clay body, and glazes are suitable for the requested firing. We cannot accept responsibility if a firing does not produce the desired results.
- Ragtag cannot accept responsibility for damage occurring during firing, including: explosions, cracking, warping, glaze faults, improper glaze fit, and colour variation
- Any damage caused to kiln shelves, kiln furniture, or the kiln itself will incur repair or replacement charges at the studio's discretion.

Studio Access

The studio is available 7 days a week, 9am–9pm.

All sessions must be booked in advance using the studio Google Calendar. When booking, please include your name and indicate whether you would like to use the wheel.

Session times

- 9am–12 noon, 12 noon–3pm, 3pm–6pm. 6pm–9pm

Please be aware that there will not always be a member of the Ragtag team in the building during these times. Members will be given the door access code. Unused sessions cannot be carried over to the following week.

Recycling Clay

If you purchase clay from Ragtag, there are recycling buckets in the hall for clay scraps. Please only put clay purchased from Ragtag into these buckets. Do not mix other clays into them.

Unfortunately, we do not have enough space for members to leave their clay on the plaster recycling block for extended periods. However, if the plaster block is empty during your session, you are welcome to use it to recycle a small amount of your own clay during that session.

Studio Code of Conduct

We want the studio to be a welcoming, safe and enjoyable space for everyone. Please:

- Leave the studio clean and tidy after every session
- Keep dust to a minimum at all times by:
 - Wipe down surfaces with damp cloth.
 - Hoovering floor and not sweeping.
 - Wash and put away any tools you have used. (avoiding dry clay collecting)
- Do not eat or drink in the studio.
- If you need to sand fired work, please do this outside to avoid creating excess dust in the studio. please do this outside and take appropriate precautions to minimise dust.
- Keep work in progress in the storage room rather than leaving it on studio surfaces.
- Store your slips, glazes and personal tools on your allocated shelf.
- Work ready for communal firing can be stored on the shelves in the kiln room. with a firing slip
- Use equipment only if you have been shown how to use it safely. If you are unsure how to use something, please ask rather than guessing.
- Respect other studio members and their use of the space.
- Respect other people's work. Do not touch or move anything that isn't yours without permission.

Before you become a studio member you need to complete a form to say you agree this agreement

Top Tips for a successful Firing

- Make sure work is completely bone dry before firing.
- Hollow out objects larger than a golf ball.
- Hollow forms should have a small vent hole to allow air to escape.
- Avoid very thick bases or uneven wall thicknesses where possible.
- Clean all glaze, oxides, and underglaze from the bottom of pots.
- Test new glazes before using them on important work.
- Use cookies to protect kiln shelves, especially when testing unfamiliar glazes.
- Check that your clay body matches the kiln firing temperature.
- Check that your glaze firing temperature matches the kiln firing temperature.
- Large flat pieces are more likely to warp during firing.
- Handles and joins should be well compressed and securely attached.

Remember: ceramics can be unpredictable
— even experienced potters lose work occasionally!

Kiln Damage Costs

The following costs are intended as a guide only and may change depending on the extent of damage and current replacement costs. Kiln maintenance and repairs are very expensive, so we want to provide a rough price guide to help highlight the importance of checking your glazes, firing temperatures, and materials before firing.

Damage	Guide Cost
Kiln shelf damage (under 5cm circle)	£25
Kiln shelf damage (under 10 cm)	£35
Full kiln shelf replacement	£200
Damage to kiln elements	£800 for all elements to be replaced
Damage to kiln walls or bricks	Starting from £50
Damage to kiln furniture	Props and stilts from £5