



FSA Suffolk Committee Annual General Meeting – 10-11am on Saturday 7th February 2026

Chairperson's Report – Charlotte Atkinson

As a group FSA Suffolk aims to provide support, friendship and inspiration for all Forest School practitioners in Suffolk.

We have now been established as a group for eight years. This year our committee has comprised the following members: Charlotte Atkinson (Chairperson), Joanne Atkins (Vice Chair and Treasurer), Victoria Gosling (Minute Secretary), Emma Keeble (Membership and Events Officer), Christine Oliver (Social Media Secretary) and Valerie Hyett (FSA Local Groups Representative).

For the past couple of years, we have operated a membership scheme for individuals and organisations. In 2025 annual FSA Suffolk membership cost £15 per year for individuals, £5 per year for committee members and Forest School Leaders in training (with a Suffolk trainer who is a member of the Suffolk FSA) and £25 for organisations (up to 3 named individuals).

Membership benefits:

- FREE 1:1 mentoring sessions with one of our committee: these can be requested via email below and we will put you in touch with whichever of us is best suited to help.
- FREE attendance at the termly networking and CPD sessions (3 per year)
- access for FSA Suffolk members' Facebook group and WhatsApp group

Our current membership scheme runs for a calendar year and renews in the January of each year at which point all previous members are emailed with details of the new sign up.

The National Forest School Association has recently introduced a new affiliation agreement for local groups. This states that if a local group has a membership scheme, membership should be on the condition that individuals or organisations are also National FSA members. Following committee discussion and survey of views of group members at our November networking and sharing meeting, we have requested amendment to the affiliation agreement to allow us to still operate a membership scheme as a local group and, through this, encourage National FSA membership but not make it a condition of joining our local group. Our rationale for a membership scheme is that it was only when we introduced local membership that our group became financially viable. Before that, when we relied solely on ticket sales for each event—given our large, geographically spread area—attendance at termly meet-ups was variable. People often booked at the last minute or not at all if the weather looked uncertain. Having a membership fee has enabled us to more than cover our costs for insurance and other expenses, and we do not want to return to the previous situation.

We have put forward the following proposal for our membership structure:

- **Annual Suffolk FSA membership for individuals who are also National FSA members:** £15 per year
- **Annual Suffolk FSA membership for individuals who are not National FSA members:** £20 per year
- **Annual Suffolk FSA membership for organisations (up to 3 people) who are also National FSA members:** £30 per year
- **Annual Suffolk FSA membership for organisations (up to 3 people) who are not National FSA members:** £40 per year
- **Annual Suffolk FSA membership for students (regardless of National FSA membership):** £10 per year
- **Membership of Suffolk FSA would be free for committee members**

We would also offer an option for those who do not wish to become Suffolk FSA members—regardless of National FSA membership—of £10 per person per event. We hope this structure will encourage people to

join the National FSA while also allowing flexibility for them to join our local group even if they are not National FSA members.

As we are waiting to hear from National FSA whether or not our proposal is accepted, we have had to make tickets for our spring term networking/ CPD session £10; we will compensate for this to anyone who signs up to our membership scheme once it is up and running.

During 2025 we had an AGM, three committee meetings and three networking/CPD sessions. Our spring term CPD session (and AGM) was held on 8th February 2025 at Foxburrow Nature Reserve. The theme was 'Animal magic' and we learned about mammal tracking, ID, dead and living things. On 7th June 2025 we had our summer term meeting at The Food Museum in Stowmarket. The theme was 'Fire and Food' and the session included a foraging walk, collecting foods to cook, prep and hygiene, cooking on fire and different fire-starting methods. Our autumn term get together was on 16th November 2025 at Charlotte's Wood in Wilby. We shared and played different woodland games and had a Mind, Body and Soul Qigong Disco.

We have a website for our group which is currently being updated: <https://www.fsasuffolk.org.uk/>, a Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/FSASuffolk> and a WhatsApp group. People can also contact us via email: FSASuffolk@gmail.com or through the FSA website: <https://www.forestschoollassociation.org/groups/fsa-suffolk/>