

Marcus
THE PHOTOGRAPHER
Natural • Romantic • Real

Wedding Photography *Planning Checklist*

A calm, practical guide to help plan the details, timings and moments that matter most on your wedding day. You do not need to manage everything yourself - this plan helps me build the photography flow around you.

For couples planning a natural, romantic and real wedding day

How this planning checklist works

This guide helps you think through the photographs that matter before the wedding day. I use your answers to build a calm, realistic photography plan around your timings, venue, people and priorities.

You do not need to run this list on the day. The purpose is to agree the important details in advance so the photography feels organised, natural and relaxed.

Your wedding details

Couple names	
Wedding date	
Ceremony time	
Venue / location	
Photography coverage required	
Main contact on the day	
Any sensitive family arrangements	
Most important photographs to capture	

What I plan in the background

From your information, I will prepare a photography plan that covers the right moments, allows enough time for portraits and groups, and protects the natural flow of your day.

<input type="checkbox"/> A realistic photography timeline.	<input type="checkbox"/> Venue, detail and reception photograph opportunities.
<input type="checkbox"/> Must-have moments and optional extras.	<input type="checkbox"/> Weather, low-light and backup planning.
<input type="checkbox"/> Family and group shot priorities.	<input type="checkbox"/> A relaxed plan so you can enjoy the day.

The wedding morning

The morning is where many of the little details and emotional moments happen. These images help tell the full story of the day.

Venue and location details - First thing, as prepared.

	Priority	Moment	Time	Notes
<input type="checkbox"/>	Core	Floral or Decorative Details	10 min	Focus on colours and textures.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Optional	Sign-in Books / Gift Table Displays	5 min	Capture close-up of pens and notes.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Core	Ceremony site images (Guests Not Yet Seated)	10 min	Wide-angle shot.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Optional	Ceremony site images (Detailed View)	10 min	Focus on key details (altar, flowers).
<input type="checkbox"/>	Core	Guests Arriving, Greeting Each Other	10 min	Capture candid interactions.

Bride getting ready - 08:00 – 12:45

	Priority	Moment	Time	Notes
<input type="checkbox"/>	Core	Hanging Dress	5 min	Ensure dress is well-lit and centred.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Optional	Bride's Shoes	5 min	Close-up of details.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Optional	Bride's Jewellery	5 min	Capture sparkle in natural light.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Optional	Bridal Bouquet	5 min	Include a bouquet on the table.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Core	Bride Looking in the Mirror	10 min	Natural candid shot.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Core	Bride Putting on Makeup	15 min	Focus on eyes or lips.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Core	Bride Styling Hair	10 min	Capture the stylist's hands in action.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Optional	Bridesmaid's Makeup Styling	15 min	Group shots with laughter.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Optional	Bridesmaids Putting on Dresses, Shoes	15 min	Capture excitement and candid moments.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Optional	Getting Bride's Dress On	10 min	Include mother or sister helping.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Core	Mum's Expressions (Bride in Dress)	5 min	Candid shot.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Core	Bride with Mother	5 min	Natural light preferred.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Core	Bride with Father	5 min	Capture emotion.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Optional	Bride with Flower Girl	5 min	Capture playful interaction.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Core	Bride with Family Members / Friends	10 min	Group shots.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Core	Bridesmaids with Bride	15 min	Elegant and joyful group shot

Preparation, first look and ceremony

This section covers the moments before the ceremony, the emotion of seeing each other and the key ceremony photographs.

Groom getting ready - 10:00 – 12:30

	Priority	Moment	Time	Notes
<input type="checkbox"/>	Core	Groomsmen with Groom	10 min	Fun and relaxed group shot.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Core	Groomsmen's shoes	5 min	Close-up of coordinated footwear.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Core	Groomsmen Having Fun	10 min	Capture laughter and camaraderie.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Core	The rings	10 min	Close up, detail.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Core	Groom's Shoes	5 min	Include a close-up of shoes and socks.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Optional	Groom's boutonhole	5 min	Capture hands pinning a boutonniere.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Core	Groom Buttoning Jacket	5 min	Focus on hands.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Core	Groom Putting on Shoes	5 min	Capture the groom's face as well.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Core	Groomsmen Helping Groom	10 min	Fun candid moments.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Core	Groom Getting Dressed	10 min	Focus on the details.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Core	Groomsmen Shaking Hands with Groom	5 min	Group interaction.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Core	Best Man Hugging Groom	5 min	Capture emotional connection.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Core	Groom with Father	5 min	Focus on the bond.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Core	Groom with Family Members / Friends	10 min	Group shots.

First look - 12:45 – 13:15

	Priority	Moment	Time	Notes
<input type="checkbox"/>	Core	Bride Approaching Groom	15 min	Capture groom's anticipation.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Core	Groom's Face When He Sees Bride	5 min	Focus on raw emotions.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Core	Interactions of Bride and groom Together	10 min	Natural light preferred.

Ceremony - 13:00 – 13:30

	Priority	Moment	Time	Notes
<input type="checkbox"/>	Core	Bridal Party Walking Down the Aisle	10 min	Capture movement and expressions.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Core	Bride's Parents' Facial Expressions	5 min	Focus on emotion.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Core	Father Giving Away Bride	5 min	Capture the moment of connection.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Core	Groom's Face When He Sees Bride	5 min	Close-up of the groom's reaction.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Core	Exchange of Rings	5 min	Close-up of hands and rings.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Core	Ceremony Details	5 min	Focus on significant symbols (candles, altar).
<input type="checkbox"/>	Core	Couple's first kiss	5 min	Wide shot to include audience reaction.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Core	Celebration walk back down the aisle	10 min	Capture joy and excitement.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Core	Confetti moment	15 min	High speed capture & blur and couple focus.

Couple portraits and family photographs

Portraits and group photographs work best when they are planned. A clear list helps keep this part of the day calm, quick and organised.

Bride & Groom Portraits - 16:50 – 1800 (and part of formals)

	Priority	Moment	Time	Notes
<input type="checkbox"/>	Core	Bridal Portraits, Bride Only	15 min	Focus on elegance and natural beauty.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Optional	Groom Only	10 min	Capture confidence and style.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Core	Bride and Groom (Romantic Poses)	15 min	Preferably during golden hour.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Core	Close-up of Rings	10 min	Artistic angle, focus on details.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Core	Close-up of Bride and Groom's Faces	10 min	Capture intimacy and connection.

Family and group photographs - 13:00 – 14:50

	Priority	Moment	Time	Notes
<input type="checkbox"/>	Core	Bouquet toss	5 min	High speed, rapid burst.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Core	Entire Bridal Party (Everyone)	15 min	Wide-angle shot, natural light.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Optional	Groom Only with Groom's Parents	10 min	Capture emotion and connection.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Optional	Groom with Groom's Extended Family	15 min	Group shot, focus on family ties.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Optional	Bride Only with Bride's Parents	10 min	Emotional connection, focus on details.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Optional	Bride with Bride's Extended Family	15 min	Group shot, focus on family ties.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Core	Bride and Groom with All Parents	15 min	Classic, formal group shot.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Optional	Bride and groom with Extended Family	20 min	Capture the essence of family unity.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Core	Large Group Shots	20 min	Coordinate everyone effectively.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Core	Your Choice of Family and Guests (Grandparents etc)	20 min	Personalised, meaningful shots.

Reception details and evening moments

From table details to speeches, dancing and cake cutting, the reception gives space for natural photographs, candid moments and celebration.

Before the reception - Morning & 14:55 – 15:00

	Priority	Moment	Time	Notes
<input type="checkbox"/>	Core	Table Decor and Floral Arrangements	10 min	Focus on intricate details.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Core	Seating Chart	5 min	Capture names and design.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Optional	Any Special Details / Decor	10 min	Focus on unique elements.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Core	Bride and groom's Table	10 min	Capture setup before guests arrive.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Core	Cake Details	5 min	Close-up of cake design.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Core	Overall Shot of Reception Area	15 min	Wide shot, include all key elements.

Reception and evening - 15:00 – Late – Cake cut 19:00

	Priority	Moment	Time	Notes
<input type="checkbox"/>	Core	Guests Arriving	15 min	Candid, natural shots.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Core	Food and drink details	10 min	Close-up, focus on presentation.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Core	Guest interactions and introductions	20 min	Capture laughter and joy.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Core	Formal introductions / wedding party entry	15 min	Capture excitement and energy.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Core	Formal introduction of the couple	10 min	Focus on the couple's entrance.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Core	Toasts and Speeches	20 min	Capture emotion and candid reactions.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Core	First Dance with Father and Bride	10 min	Focus on connection and emotion.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Core	First dance with the couple	15 min	Capture intimacy and elegance.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Optional	Bridesmaids and Groomsmen Dancing	10 min	Fun, candid moments.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Optional	Family Members Dancing	15 min	Capture joy and tradition.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Core	Guests Dancing / Candid Moments	20 min	Capture energy and movement.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Core	Important / Special Traditions or Games	20 min	Focus on cultural or personal significance.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Core	Cake Cutting	10 min	Capture the fun and joy.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Optional	Formal Farewell / Exit of Bride and Groom	15 min	Capture the final moments of the night.

Your special requests and timeline

Every wedding has personal details that matter. Use this page to note important people, pets, traditions, surprises, sentimental items or photographs you would love to include.

Special photograph requests

Request 1	
Request 2	
Request 3	
Request 4	
Request 5	
Request 6	

Example wedding day timeline

<input type="checkbox"/> Morning - preparation photographs and detail shots.	<input type="checkbox"/> 15:15 - speeches, if before the meal.
<input type="checkbox"/> Late morning - groom and wedding party preparation.	<input type="checkbox"/> 15:40 - wedding breakfast / meal.
<input type="checkbox"/> 12:00 - guests begin to arrive.	<input type="checkbox"/> 17:30 - evening entertainment setup.
<input type="checkbox"/> 13:00 - ceremony.	<input type="checkbox"/> 18:30 - evening guests arrive.
<input type="checkbox"/> 13:30 - reception drinks and candid guest moments.	<input type="checkbox"/> 19:00 - cake cutting.
<input type="checkbox"/> 14:50 - bouquet toss or planned group moment.	<input type="checkbox"/> 19:15 - father-daughter dance followed by first dance.
<input type="checkbox"/> 15:00 - guests seated for food.	

