

Q&A

WEDDING MATTERS



Samm Riley runs Wedding Matters, with bases all across southern England. Free consultations are also available. For more details email info@wedding-matters.co.uk

Your wedding will be the 7 biggest party you plan in your life. Here's how to get it right...
Words: Samm Riley, Wedding Matters

“When should I start planning my wedding?”

This is dependent on certain factors, namely the number of guests you're having; where you want to marry; the wedding date; and your flexibility. If you must have a specific venue or venue type, and you have a large guestlist and want to marry in August, two years before wouldn't be too soon. If you are having a small wedding and are open to ideas on venue, date and area (provided you have the time) you can plan a wedding in a matter of weeks.

“Where shall I buy my dress?”

I thoroughly recommend visiting an image consultant. This is a life-changing experience that furnishes you with the knowledge to get started when purchasing any clothes. Once you have this information, you can qualify dress styles and colours and thus reduce your options. Most brides can decide between two or three good options – it's getting to that point that's the difficult part.

“How much will the day cost?”

Again this is dependent on certain factors but a good guide for an average wedding is to take your venue, food and beverage costs and double it. Thereafter costs tend to be luxury choices rather than wedding norms.

“How do I choose the right photographer for us?”

You need to ask yourself what you want from your wedding pictures. Don't book a reportage photographer because the work looks nice, if you

want to stage your shots. You must decide on your preference and find someone whose images are similar to what you want.

“Should I bother with a cake?”

The most important function of a cake is for décor and as a centre piece. The second function of a cake is to be eaten. Some brides serve it as a dessert. Beware that some caterers don't offer a discount for this, so do ask.

“Should I have a planner?”

On a practical level they can save you time stress and money and on a creative level they can add the x-factor to your wedding. It isn't a service that suits everyone, but if you are strapped for time, this is an invaluable service.

“Should I bother with a video?”

A video is something you will appreciate more as the years go by, especially when you show your children. Don't be too hasty to strike this from your wedding budget – many tend to regret it if they do.

“What about stationery?”

This is perhaps the most labour intensive part of the planning, as it is generally on-going for around six months from printing invites to printing table plans. Invites should arrive with guests no later than three months before the wedding unless you plan to send a save the date. Placecards and seating plans are usually done in the last two weeks.



ENSURE YOU HAVE A HAPPY, STRESS-FREE WEDDING DAY BY BEING ORGANISED RIGHT FROM THE START