

Blueprint Planning Tool 1

The Wedding Foundations Exercise



Part of the
Yorkshire Wedding Blueprint
Planning Framework

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Why This Stage Matters

Most couples begin planning with venues, dates and inspiration boards. Very few begin with alignment.

Before any bookings are made, before deposits are paid and before plans gather momentum, there are a small number of foundational decisions that shape everything that follows.

When these foundations are unclear, later decisions become harder. When they are clear, planning becomes structured, confident and calm.

This exercise is designed to help you establish that clarity.

It will guide you through the decisions that influence:

- The atmosphere of your wedding
- Your guest numbers
- Your budget comfort zone
- Your non-negotiables

If you approach this stage properly, every subsequent planning tool in the Blueprint will become easier to apply.

How to Approach This Exercise

Before you begin, print two copies of this document.

Each of you should complete your own copy independently.

This is important.

Do not complete this together at first.

Instead:

1. Complete every section on your own.
2. Answer honestly and instinctively.
3. Do not try to anticipate what your partner might say.

Once you have both completed the exercise:

1. Sit down together.
2. Compare your answers section by section.
3. Discuss where you align and where you differ.

The aim is not to win decisions.

The aim is to surface differences early, while they are easier to resolve.

Take your time with this stage.

It establishes the foundations for every planning decision that follows.

1. What Really Matters Most?

Complete this exercise independently before discussing your answers together.

In your own words, describe the kind of experience you want to create.

Partner 1:

Partner 2:

Now compare your answers.

Where do you align?

Where do you differ?

Rank Your Priorities

Number the following in order of importance
(1 = highest priority)

- Guest experience
- Photography
- Venue aesthetics
- Food and drink
- Entertainment
- Budget control
- Intimate atmosphere
- Celebration energy
- Family involvement
- Other: _____

Your top three priorities:

2. Guest Numbers and Atmosphere

Your guest count influences:

- Venue options
- Budget allocation
- Catering cost
- Timeline structure
- Overall atmosphere

Complete independently.

Ideal guest range: _____ to _____

Absolute maximum: _____

If you needed to reduce numbers, who would you remove first?

Are children invited?

- Yes
- No
- Undecided

Are there any non-negotiables regarding family involvement?

3. Budget Comfort Zone

Rather than asking, "What can we afford?", consider:

"What level of investment allows us to feel excited, not anxious?"

Lower comfort zone: £_____

Upper comfort zone: £_____

If costs begin to exceed this range, what would you reduce first?

If preserving memories matters deeply to you, have you intentionally protected an allocation for photography?

- Yes
- Not yet
- Unsure

4. Non-Negotiables

List anything that must happen:

List anything that must not happen:

Are there traditions you wish to include or avoid?

Final Reflection

If we get these foundations right, what will that allow us to feel on the day?

Structured planning creates confident decisions.

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