

Studio portrait session preparation

Clothing

There are no absolute rules for what you should wear but the following guidelines may help. You may have your own ideas about the particular look you want to create, and that's fine too.

Simple clothing often gives the best results, so perhaps avoid patterns, spots, stripes, logos and multi coloured clothing as these may be distracting in your finished portrait. But if this more 'freestyle' look is what you want, then go for it.

One option for groups is to have everyone wearing matching or complementary colours in similar tones. If this is the look you want, white, black or light blue tops work well. Trousers and skirts can be co-ordinated too and black or all denim is a sound option.

Classic designs (plain shirts, t-shirts, etc) tend to be a better choice as more fashionable garments can date the photographs quickly.

Completely sleeveless tops should be avoided as upper arms tend to photograph wider than they appear in real life. Longer sleeves tend to be more flattering on adults.

Baby's that are less than a year old can be photographed in their nappies covered with a soft cloth or towel.

Young children tend to look best in casual clothes like jeans and t-shirt but again, dress your children in something you love seeing them in. We want them to feel comfortable, relax and have fun. If they have a favourite toy they like to play with, or is a source of comfort, feel free to bring it along.

But most importantly, wear clothes you are comfortable in and want to be seen in!

Footwear

We have a 'no shoes' policy in the studio so don't worry about your choice of footwear.

We need to keep the white floor as clean as possible as most of our family portrait sessions involve sitting or laying on the floor at some point for more interesting and fun images and we would not want you posing on a dirty floor! This is especially true when young children and babies are being photographed.

Dark or clean white socks are fine, but please ensure that all family members are matching.

Going barefoot for a more natural looking portrait image is often preferable so ladies might want to paint their nails (hands and feet) the same colour.

Jewellery

If you wear jewellery to the portrait session try to keep it simple. Too much jewellery or jewellery with overwhelming proportions draws attention away from the subject of the

photograph. Simple and elegant are generally the way to go when selecting jewellery. The same applies for any other accessories you wish to have included in your portrait.

Ladies

Your normal day to day or 'going out' make-up is fine, keep it simple and avoid putting on extra make-up for the session. Wearing a translucent matt powder over your make-up will help avoid shine and it's a good idea to bring it with you for a 'touch up' during the session along with the other make-up you used.

Men

Unless designer stubble is preferred, men should ideally shave within a couple of hours before the sitting. Try not to nick yourself!

Children

Avoid giving too much advance warning to your children. Younger children may get over excited or alternatively somewhat apprehensive.

Please try to book an appointment at a time of day when your young child is alert and full of energy as this will ensure the best results.

Please note all children under the age of 16 must be accompanied by a parent or guardian.

Babies and newborns

Time of day is important when planning a session for your baby – pick a time just after a feed and nappy change and when energy levels are good.

Please avoid sessions within a few days of inoculations as your baby is probably not in the best form and skin can be affected.

If your baby responds well to a particular toy or rattle please bring it along.

Sunburn

Please avoid unprotected exposure to the sun in the days before your portrait session as studio lighting can highlight reddened skin.

Glasses

If you normally wear glasses consider whether you want to wear them in your portrait.

Some glasses reflect the studio lights and can detract from your portrait so are better left off. Other glasses have non-reflective coatings and are fine. But some people just don't recognise themselves without their glasses and it may be possible to wear them in that case.

**If you have any questions contact us on 01753 868414 or
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