

SANDY WEIR PHOTOGRAPHY

ABOUT YOUR PORTRAIT SESSION

We understand that many people can be a little apprehensive about certain aspects of a portrait session such as clothing, make up etc and we would like to offer some general advice in advance.

Should anyone be worried or have a particular problem, please let us know, as there are many techniques that we can use to ease or eliminate certain problems. It may also be comforting to learn that the majority of people arrive slightly nervous for a session, whereas most leave saying how much they have actually enjoyed themselves!

WHAT TO WEAR

CLOTHING - Sessions these days tend to be far more relaxed and informal than in years gone by and colours such as denim photograph well; however, do try to avoid clothing with bold designs such as large spots or stripes as these will tend to dominate the photograph. If in doubt, bring a change of clothing as we can help you to decide. If it is an outdoor shoot, consider accessories such as hats, scarves and gloves.

GROUPS- The important thing here is colour "harmony" to ensure that no one person dominates the pictures due to a clash of colour. Likewise, everyone should adopt the same style i.e. all casual or all formal.

LADIES - Wear something you know you like yourself in, preferably long sleeved unless it is a strapless evening dress etc. Dark stockings are more flattering than pale ones.

Wear an evening style of make-up i.e. heavier than daytime. Also avoid very pale lipstick, which doesn't photograph well. Most importantly, wear a translucent powder over your make-up. This helps to "set" it and avoid any shine, which otherwise could look like perspiration in a portrait. Your hairstyle should be your own as it is a mistake to have a new style specifically for the session.

GENTLEMENT - Suits or jackets with long-sleeved shirts and ties are great for a formal portrait, however for a more informal shoot, casual shirts or sweaters are ideal. Unless bearded, men should ideally shave within an hour or two before attending the session. Remember that socks and shoes are likely to appear in some pictures, so choose carefully.

BABIES - Heavy knitted outfits look very bulky so more delicate clothes should be considered. Babies and toddlers are usually taken bare footed. It's a good idea to bring a comfort feed of juice or water in a bottle for use during the photos and to avoid session times when they would normally be feeding or asleep. Also if your baby or young child is feeling unwell, it is much better to postpone the session and get the desired expressions on another day!

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CHILDREN – From experience, please do not warn your children to behave themselves either before or during the session, as we would prefer that children should enjoy the session and hopefully allow us to capture their true personality. It's sometimes a good idea also for young children to bring along a favourite toy, as this will keep them occupied and make them feel more relaxed.

TEENAGERS – We were all teenagers once, right! We suggest that they be allowed to bring an outfit of their own choice in addition to those their parents may prefer them to wear.

SPECS - Please avoid specs with tinted lenses or those that react to light, unless you are purposely going for the Mafia look!

VIEWING YOUR PORTRAITS

Having now enjoyed your portrait session, you will know how much expertise and professionalism has gone into your photographs. This same care and attention will now be carried forward into preparing the images and presenting your portrait viewing.

We will invite you back to the studio and spend some time with you going through your pictures. We will project them to music to give you a truly memorable and enjoyable experience.

Although we can only accommodate a limited number of people at the viewing, it is important however that those having an influence on which portraits are purchased are in attendance. From experience we would respectfully recommend that you do not bring young children to the viewing as they may quickly become fretful, making it difficult or impossible for you to make your buying decisions.

Selecting which portraits you wish to purchase is an important decision. At your viewing appointment, you will be given plenty time to choose. There will be absolutely no pressure but our advice will be freely available if you require it. It will also make your choice easier if you consider which rooms to hang your portraits and on which walls, before the viewing to determine approximate sizes. You should also consider to whom you might wish to give portraits as gifts etc.