



BLENHEIM PALACE

# WEDDING INFORMATION

at Blenheim Palace





We understand that trying to plan a COVID secure wedding can feel like a challenge and we know your wedding will be slightly different to the one you may have planned. We want to be here to help wherever we can. We also want to assure you that we have been working hard to enable you to still have your celebrations with us, confident that we have in place the necessary precautions to keep you and your guests safe, as well as making sure your wedding is a very special one. The below guidelines are under constant review and may change at any time and we will keep you updated with the latest information and government regulations.

### Further information about your ceremony...

As per current government guidance, ceremonies will be shortened to include only the minimum legal requirements. This means that certain music, singing and readings cannot be included, and photographs should be taken outside the building, once the ceremony has concluded.

Your pre-ceremony legal preliminaries meeting with the registrar will take place in the ceremony room if you wish to be interviewed separately, the bride must be seen first and then leave room before the groom is interviewed and then the guests are seated. This can only take place if arrival times are adhered to. The Bride may only make an entrance if there is a quick turnaround after the interview and with the guests being allowed in to the room. Walking down the aisle with another person may not be permitted if social distancing from seated guests cannot be maintained so we would need to assess your room set up before confirming this. Also the person walking you down the aisle must be part of your household or social bubble. You will need to speak to the Registrars about further guidance on the exchange of rings, signing the Register and photography.

Guests will be seated in family bubbles with the necessary social distancing. We will require a seating plan in advance. All guests will be required to wear facemasks (the couple and registrars are exempt) and there will be a sanitiser station just outside the room for guests to use before entering the ceremony room.

Unfortunately activities that involve objects being thrown (such as confetti or bouquet toss) or passed from person to person must be avoided.



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### Further information about your reception...

Following your wedding ceremony, we will be able to host drinks and canapes for you. During the reception, all guests, especially people from separate households/bubbles, should adhere to social distancing guidelines; 2 metres or 1 metre with risk mitigation (where 2 metres is not viable). We will provide a reception area to suit your numbers and have seating available so that any drinks and/or canapes can be served to guests at their tables.

For your meal you will need to have a menu that can be served to the table as we are not able to provide a buffet or sharing platters and all drinks will be served to the tables as well. Seating arrangements should follow social distancing guidance, meaning that at most two households (including any support bubbles) are seated together and social distancing is maintained between these groups. We will need your seating plan in advance.

In terms of entertainment, recorded music can be played during the reception but any live performances can only be permitted in line with social distance guidelines. There are separate rules in place for this so please ask for more details. Dancing is not permitted. We have been asked as a venue to ensure that steps are taken to avoid people needing to unduly raise their voices to each other at any point in the proceedings. This includes - but is not limited to - refraining from playing music at a volume that makes normal conversation difficult and avoiding activities such as communal singing or chanting. Cake cutting and speeches can take place but needs to incorporate social distancing at all time. PA systems should be utilised wherever possible to help amplify speeches without speakers needing to raise their voices. There may also be restrictions on finish times for your event, as well as following the current guidelines.

Other objects in the venue being touched by several people (such as guest books or polaroid camera stations) should be minimised and hand sanitisation encouraged both before and after contact. The exchange of cards and gifts during receptions and celebrations should be minimised wherever possible.



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### Throughout your day...

Guests are strongly encouraged to wear a face covering where social distancing may be difficult and where they come into contact with people they do not normally meet. We will have sanitiser stations available in all areas and we will encourage attendees to use them. Guests where possible should frequently throughout the day wash their hands thoroughly for 20 seconds with running water and soap or use hand sanitiser.

We will ask for the names and contact details of all persons visiting our venue from your party and we will keep a written record for at least 21 days to support NHS Test and Trace. This will include any third-party suppliers who are present for any part of the day even if only during set up.

Ventilation with external air will be maximised where people are gathering wherever possible so we may have to have more windows and doors open.

It is crucial that all staff, attendees and third-party suppliers visiting reception or celebration venues are not showing any symptoms of COVID-19. Anyone displaying symptoms should stay at home and get tested.



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