

DONNA GREEN

PHOTOGRAPHY

BEAUTIFUL, NATURAL,
CHILD AND FAMILY PHOTOGRAPHY

client guide

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Hello and welcome!

I'm delighted you're considering a child or family photography session with me, and I very much hope to work with you in the near future! I know you'll have done some research and that you'll be looking for a photographer you can trust, and who will capture your family beautifully.

Every photographer has a different approach to creating and presenting your precious images, and one of the key benefits of mine is that it's completely focused around you. I firmly believe that having your photographs taken should never be stressful – EVER. It's supposed to be relaxing and enjoyable! It's supposed to be a wee break where you all can get together and just have a good time.

That's why it's so important you read this eBook to get a true understanding of what I can do for you and your family. So get yourself a cup of tea, sit down, and have a read. I hope it will answer the questions you may have, and I look forward to hearing from you soon!



Why we all need family portraits

I know exactly how difficult it is for working families like yours to take the time to appreciate the precious moments so unique to you, so I provide you with beautiful, custom artwork which makes you slow down and smile now, then later becomes heirlooms to hand down, your legacy which connects the generations.

Family portraits are records of who we all are and are the most precious possessions of many people. We take them because we want to remember always a moment in time, or an event, or a thing, or a person. Can we remember these things without a photograph? Of course. But while we might remember the feeling of a place or a person, we won't remember details because time chips away at them and the edges blur and fade.



Eventually these things, these people, become indistinct memories, but gaze at a photo and you have the details right in front of you, bringing feelings and memories flooding back.

These pictures are what we pass down to our children and their children. Family photographs are how our children's grandchildren will know us. They're an investment in your family history and grow in value over time, becoming heirlooms and treasures.

STATEMENT



Signature statement piece of your family as a focal point of your living room – above the mantelpiece?

BOX

Perfect for the coffee table, you can show off your family photos in a beautiful presentation box.



GALLERY



Every family home needs a rogues' gallery on the wall somewhere!

COLLAGE

Display several of your images together beautifully – really tell a story with your photographs.



DESK TOP



Photos of the people who mean the most to you, on your shelves, tables, and DEFINITELY at work!

GIFT PRINTS

Prints are perfect to display around the home or to give away as little keepsakes to friends and family.



What will you do with YOUR family photos?

Because your beautiful family photos should be hung on your walls, placed all around your home, and given as gifts to those who will love them as much as you do.

Nothing compares to having gorgeous photographic artwork in your hands and on your walls - artwork you'll treasure for years to come.

Stop for a moment, slow down, take yourself back to those moments of love and fun you see immortalised in print, on your walls.

To give you an idea of total costs...

... my clients generally spend anything from £250 to upwards of £1,500 on their family photography, but there's NO obligation

contact me now to reserve your session!

Working with me...

SO WHAT HAPPENS?

You get in touch with me



1



We agree dates, times, and locations for your pre-session consultation and the photography session itself

2



I email you contract and invoice for session fee - you settle and sign by clicking a button - dead easy!

4



Our pre-session consultation! This is where we plan how to get images you'll absolutely love!

3



I send you my "What to Wear" guide for your session, and things to think about in advance

5



The day you've been waiting for - your photography session!

6



Your ordering session, where I show you your proof prints and you order what you love

8



Enjoy your beautiful artwork!

7



Excitement! I deliver the prints or products you've ordered!

What you'll love about working with me

I usually photograph families like yours on location at parks, beaches, farms, woods, or in your garden, but I'm open to other suggestions for places you might like, such as your home.

As I know exactly how busy you are, I'll make it as easy as possible for you by guiding you every step of the way.

I even fully guarantee my work so if you don't love your images, I'll refund you.

Oh and don't worry about rictus grins and the kids not "performing" - I'll take care of all that so you don't have to.



Scheduling your session

The first thing we'll do when you decide you want to book me is to agree a date, time, and location.

If you have somewhere particular in mind we'll have a chat about it, but if not there are several places I can recommend.

The main thing is good light, which is vital so we can showcase your family at its best.

If you're not in Edinburgh, don't worry, talk to me – I love getting round and about and am very often happy to travel!



Payment and contract

I'll email you an electronic invoice for my session fee when we put you in the diary, then all you have to do is pay by card, online.

It's really easy and quick, then when you select products afterwards, you just pay for them separately at the ordering session. Remember - the session fee you paid goes towards this.

At the same time you're invoiced for the session fee, you'll get my electronic contract. If some wonderfully kind soul gave you a gift voucher, don't worry about any session fee! No invoice, just a simple contract outlining how we'll work together.

I know you don't want to be faffing with bits of paper and having to send them back to me through the post, so all you have to do is open my email with the link to my contract, read what it says, and if you're happy, just click "sign". If you're not, just phone me and we'll talk about it.



"What to wear" advice

Once your invoice for the session fee has been settled and you've signed the contract, it gets a bit more fun!

You'll get my "What to Wear" and style guide eBook, pictured below, because I know figuring out what clothes to pick for your session can be daunting. It's something a lot of my clients stress about, so you're not the only one!

But remember, *you're not on your own here.*

I know what looks good in photographs and I really want you to do everything you can to maximise how much you enjoy looking at them for many years afterwards.

Secrets to
looking
fabulous
in your
family
photos!

For
busy mums -
how to wow in
your family
photography
session!



Pre-session consultation

So you end up with the very best images possible, I place great importance on discussing your session with you beforehand.

It gives me the chance to find out about you and your family, what ideas we both have for the images, and how we can create them together. You'll tell me what you want ... And what you don't want! We can also discuss clothing, as this is something which can really make or break your portraits.

Without a good chat before your session I can't guarantee my images will meet your satisfaction, so I do require we have this consultation in advance.

Many photographers are happy with just sending out a questionnaire for you to complete before your photography session but I simply don't think this is enough. My clients always love talking through ideas beforehand, and it's included in your session fee, so don't miss it!

IF YOU LIVE IN
EDINBURGH OR THE
LOTHIANS, I'LL POP
ROUND TO SEE YOU, OR
IF YOU'RE FURTHER AWAY
WE CAN CHAT OVER THE
PHONE.



During your photo session

We'll start by finding a spot with great light and take the slightly more posed group photographs there.

Don't shudder when you see the word "posed" – it's honestly not hard, and I'll show you what to do! And if your children are small, don't worry, we'll make sure this doesn't take too long.

Then after we've got all the groupings you'd like, we can just move off, go for a wee wander, and as you enjoy some time out with your family, I'll capture those moments for you when children are busy just being themselves – climbing trees, playing hide-and-seek, or splashing in puddles ... Whatever they love doing!

Natural looking portraits come from photographing the moment as it is, rather than directing too much.



Your in-home ordering session

I know you'll be excited to see your photographs, and I aim to have them ready for you in around a fortnight.

We'll arrange a convenient time I can come round to see you to show you your photographs. I display them on my laptop, which I can hook up to your TV so you get an even better look at them. Beautiful photos of your family deserve to go large!

Then it's time to decide which photographs you would like to purchase and how you would like them displayed in your home. I'll guide you through the selection process - it's fairly straightforward although it's often very hard to decide which of your photographs you really want to keep!

This takes as long or as short a time as you like - there's no time pressure because I want you to be absolutely delighted with the choice of photographs you purchase.



Product delivery

Once I've received your wall art from my suppliers, I arrange a time to come round to yours with it.

I *love* this bit!

Because then I get to see your face when you open it.

And I think you'll love this bit too. ❤️



Enjoy your beautiful artwork

The peace that comes with living with beautiful images in pride of place on your walls of the people who mean the most to you is absolutely priceless.

Reminders of the good times together, the deep connection and love you share as a family, so often lost in the daily grind.

Stop for a moment, slow down, take yourself back to those moments of love and fun you see immortalised in print, on your walls. Feel a smile soothe and warm your frantically ticking mind.

There. Affirmation right there, on your walls of your home, that, actually? You've got this. You ARE doing a great job.



Frequently asked questions

If you're thinking of getting child or family portraits taken, I'll bet you're thinking about some or all of these concerns, so I hope these FAQs help you.

You can see FAQs on the coming pages relating to:

- * Before your session
- * During your session
- * After your session

But if you've still got questions? Just get in touch with me and I'll get back to you right away.



FAQs - Before your session

Are you the right photographer for me?

Well, you know, this kind of depends on you, so I'll have to throw some questions right back at you!

Do you love nature and being outdoors? Do you prefer natural looking portraits of your family enjoying themselves outside to stiff, artificially lit studio poses? Do you prefer quality over quantity? Do you prefer a personalised service over a conveyor-belt, one size fits all service? I'm sure you know where I'm going with this!

Do you do studio photographs?

No, and I doubt I'll ever want to. I love being outdoors and photographing in the natural light too much! And I much prefer images of children just playing and enjoying themselves to being posed in front of studio lights. In my view, nothing beats natural light. Good natural light photographers know which times of day give the best light, and we know how to manipulate it when we're out there so you look your very best.

I firmly believe your family's personality shines through better when they're being photographed belting a ball at a football net in a park rather than standing posing with a football against a solid background in a studio. Outdoors, there are endless location and background options so your images are more unique. However, that's not to say studio sessions don't have their place. They're just not my thing, is all.

Do you do indoors sessions?

I do, but only with natural light as I think that gives the most beautiful results. Most of my clients come to me for outdoor images but I do occasionally photograph indoors. So if you'd rather be photographed in your own home, provided you have

at least a couple of reasonably large windows which let in enough light, we could start there then perhaps even move outdoors for a completely different look.

If it's a winter evening and you live in a dark, north-facing basement flat in the New Town, however, sticking to outdoors is probably our better option!

Do you do newborn posing photography?

Newborn posing photography, when the baby is asleep in various manipulated positions (often with props) is a very specialist genre and it's not what I do.

I take the natural approach, much preferring to capture images of your baby lying naturally or being held by you and your family – details and moments using your baby's everyday surroundings.

Props are more likely to be a soft toy or something from the baby's room rather than an antique bowl or bed which you may see in a posed studio session.

If you're looking for posed baby photographs, I can recommend some truly outstanding local baby posing photography experts who can give you this.

What time of day do you book your sessions for?

It really depends on when in the year you book me for, but here's a rough guide to times you can expect depending on what season you book in:

- * Spring: 6.30 am to 6.00 pm
- * Summer: 6.00 am to 9.00 pm
- * Autumn: 8.00 am to 5.00 pm
- * Winter: 9.00 am to 3.00 pm

Generally the light is the most beautiful late in the day, although early mornings can also be lovely.

High noon in summer is tricky due to strong light making harsh shadows on faces, but don't worry, there are ways round this if your family schedule doesn't allow any other time of day.

What's a session fee and what does it include?

So I can keep your session date and time free for you and spend up to an hour and a half taking images you will love, a non-refundable session fee is required, to be paid when I invoice you at the time of booking.

The session fee also includes the pre-portrait consultation which my clients really value, held either over the phone or in person, where we talk through ideas for your session and establish how best I can give you images you'll be delighted with, and the ordering appointment when your images are ready.

Please note, the session fee goes towards your purchase of photographs.

Do you give a guarantee?

Oh absolutely. See the [guarantee page on my website](#).

Do you do weekends?

Heavens, yes. I know it's not always easy for you to take time off work and to take the children out of school for week day sessions, which is why I'm more than happy to do this for you at weekends.



Can we go further afield or do we have to stick to Edinburgh?

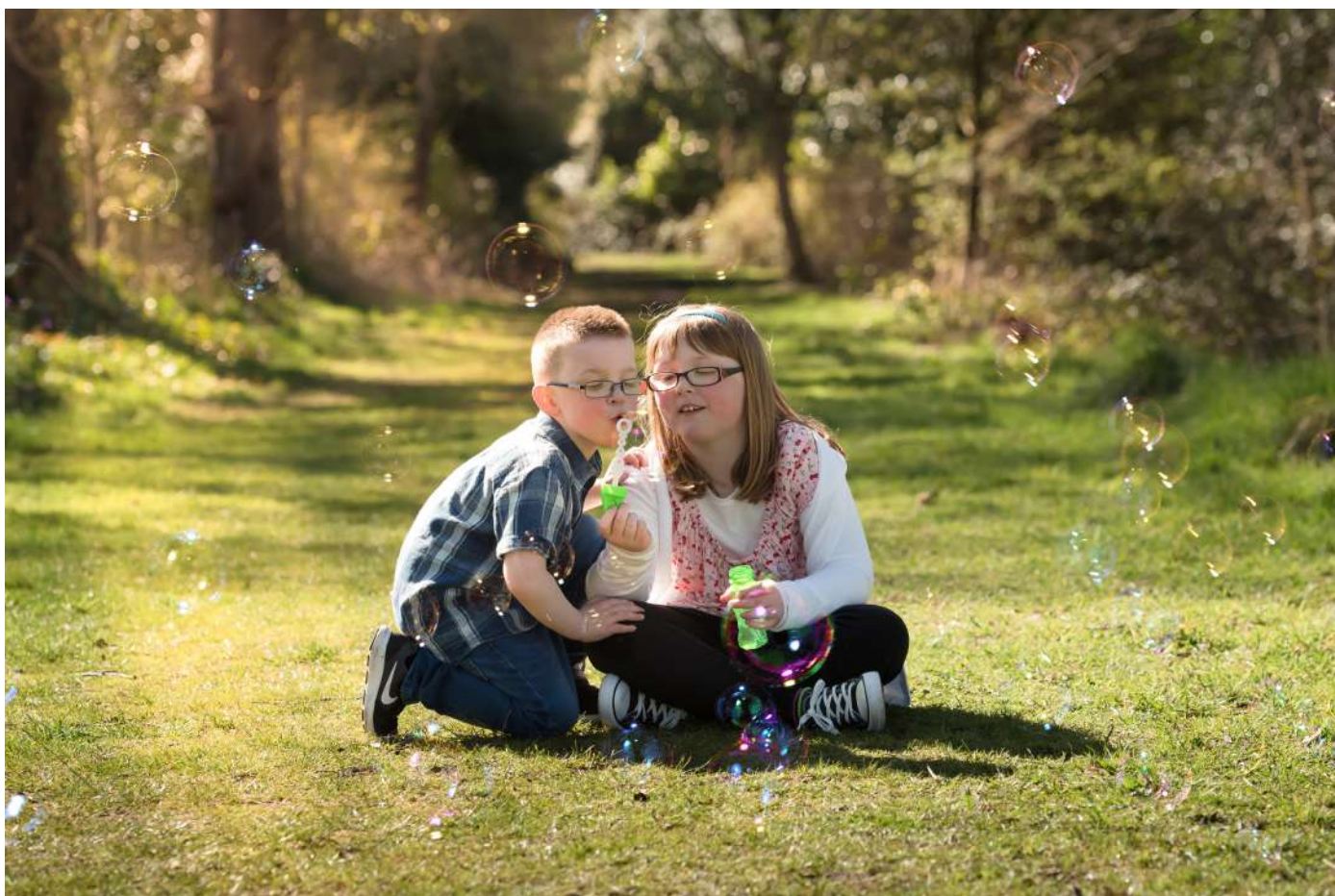
Although I'm based in Edinburgh, I do cover the Lothians and Fife too.

However, if you're further away from me than that, well, I love going to new places!

Just get in touch with me and we can talk about it.

I don't live anywhere near you - will you come to us?

As above ... Very possibly, so just contact me.



FAQs - During your session

What if it rains?

I thought you'd never ask! It's very likely you and your family simply won't enjoy our session so much if it's raining or there's a howling gale outside. Given where we live, this does sometimes happen so the Met Office is my best friend and I keep a VERY close eye on the weather leading up to and on the morning of our session.

It's very unlikely you would enjoy being photographed in rain, snow, high winds, or extreme temperatures, and I doubt I could capture you at your best, so if it's too horrible outside we'll have to reschedule. I'll be in touch with you both the day before and the morning of your session if it's looking unlikely we can go ahead, and we'll figure out what to do.

What if the children misbehave and carry on?

That's absolutely fine! A bit of mischief often yields great images, so please don't worry about it. I know what it's like, I've got two children of my own, so I'm well used to them embarrassing me in public by fighting with each other, having melt-downs, or other nonsense. It's not a problem.

But children often behave better for strangers don't they, so just let me deal with it. I know you might find it hard to bite your tongue and stand back, but if you get angry and the kids get upset, you're really not going to get pictures you love. Take a break and just let me take charge. In ten years' time, you'll love the image of your wee one crying crocodile tears just as much as the one that I took ten seconds later of her happily running toward the camera, beaming. I just want to capture the personalities of your children in front of me, including all the beautiful quirks, details, and small moments that make them who they are.

And of course, one of the great advantages of being photographed outdoors is, instead of your children feeling under pressure and confined in a hot studio, they can run around as much as they want!

With wee kids it's best to let them explore and get a feel for their surroundings, and I actually like to get them walking and running in the photos because then they really look like they are having fun. Let them lead the way and see what happens! And while it can take time to get reluctant children to cooperate, I am usually rewarded for plain old perseverance and persistence.

I've written a blog post about this called "Worried about your feral beasts? Don't be" which might help you here!

I'm really not keen on being photographed. Can you just do the children?

Of course! It's not a problem. But please do think very carefully about this ... Perhaps you feel you aren't photogenic, but remember, your children don't care what you look like. Images of you will be one of the most important things they have at some point in the future and will mean the world to them.

Do we have to pose? I really don't think I can do anything more than the teapot!

Just be yourself! Interacting, laughing and just generally messing about together make beautiful photos that you will feel a connection to forever.

Posing you all as a human pyramid wouldn't really be top of my mind, but if that's your thing, then let's do it! Sometimes I might direct you to get everyone's face in the shot and some images will be loosely posed, although naturally so you look your best. But don't worry about this – I'll show you what to do!

How long does it take?

Normally around 60-90 minutes, but as I know these photographs will be so important to you, I don't impose a strict time limit. However, children tend to get fed up and want to do something else after an hour or so, so I use this as a guideline. But I don't rush you, and if anyone wants a snack or break, that's fine.

What can I do myself to make sure everything goes smoothly?

The best thing you can do is to just relax and enjoy it! Sometimes people feel a wee bit uptight and stressed before a photography session – fear of the unknown! – but what's the worst that can happen?

Just look at it as a chance to enjoy yourselves, and let me worry about what the children are doing.

We'll have the best chance at getting beautiful images if we let them happen naturally (with a little guidance from me).

You absolutely do NOT have to worry about your children being on their best behaviour; in fact, that would probably be counter-productive and we'd end up with photographs which are stiff and unnatural looking.



FAQs - After your session

Can you edit out a scrape on my toddler's face?

I meticulously hand edit all the images I give you and my normal practice is to remove temporary things like blemishes, cuts etc, but leave in permanent marks like scars that make the person who s/he is, unless otherwise requested.

However, it's very helpful if your toddler's nose is wiped beforehand and during the session, if you know what I mean!

Do you do colour or black and white?

I very often provide a mixture of both, unless you specifically ask for all of some, or none of the other. Some photographs lend themselves particularly well to black and white, however, and I'll process each image according to how I think it works best.

When I'm showing you the images from your session and see one you really want in black and white, just tell me - I should be able to do this for you.

Who has the rights to the images, and what do you do with them?

You have the rights to the images for personal use but I have copyright.

People who book me have usually seen my photographs online first, so I'm sure you'll understand that it's vitally important to my business that I can use your images to promote and market my photography services.

Most clients love this and are very proud when I select one or more of their images to showcase my work. It's important for me to clarify that the images I take during

our session together may in the future be used on my website, blog, Facebook or other social media page, or in any other promotional material. It might also be the case that I enter one of your images in a photography competition.

However, if for any reason you do NOT want your images used on social media, please let me know and I'll keep them under lock and key.

Also, if you're planning to present some of the photographs I take to family or friends as a surprise, I am always happy to delay using images until after the gifts have been received. I'd hate to spoil the surprise!



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