

**Please ask your Event Manager’s advice if you are in doubt, they have seen enough weddings to know what works and what doesn’t and they want to make your wedding the best it can be for you!**

* Whilst this is the first time you have arranged an Event at NCC, remember that your Event Manager and all the suppliers know the venue very well, they know what they are doing and will always talk to you if there are any gaps in the planning. No need to over-think/micro manage!
* Most guests have to pay for a hotel when going to a wedding. Don’t feel guilty asking them to pay for their room at NCC – they will be saving on taxi costs and it makes our rental price very reasonable. On that note, for those not staying, you MUST tell them to pre-book taxis in advance, there is no Uber in Somerset!
* Focus your budget on the things that matter to you as a couple
* Be flexible and realistic where weather is concerned – try not to fixate on a plan which relies on a sunny day when you live in the UK. Fortunately North Cadbury Court has enough inside space for guests and a Plan B will always be made by your Event Manager.
* Give yourself enough time when you arrive to unpack and get settled before your guests arrive, then you can enjoy their company rather than feel stressed that you need to get things done.
* Don't take on too much DIY yourselves - decor, flowers, cake, food - can be very stressful and leave little time to enjoy the reason you are there.
* With the excitement of friends seeing each other in the beautiful setting, the first night can easily become a big night if its not planned properly. Nothing worse than groom/ushers/bridesmaids with hangovers – everyone is there for the wedding so don’t feel bad having an end time on the first day.
* Give guests and yourselves time to make use of the many facilities at the house rather than overpacking the schedule
* Don’t have too long a drinks reception – 2 hours is long enough! If you are planning a lovely sunny day with all guests enjoying the outdoor facilities, remember that if its raining they will all be inside and ready to move onto the meal after 2 hours.
* Remember that it takes at least 15 minutes to get all the guests into the ballroom, with larger numbers this takes longer. If the Bride and Groom are making an entrance this adds at least another 5 minutes on to the timings.

* 2 hours for any stage of a wedding is a good rule of thumb, guests are ready for the next thing by then (apart from dancing in the evening!). Remember a 3 course meal takes 2 hours, plus speeches, so your guests could be sitting next to the same person for nearly 3 hours. Consider having more canapes (they are always so good) instead of a starter.
* Make sure your speeches are timed and if possible, warn off any surprise speeches. If a speech overruns you are risking your wedding breakfast meal being at its best and also putting the rest of day’s timings out.
* Always consider the staff that the Event Manager recommends, they know what works best for the number of guests at North Cadbury Court. This cost is relatively small compared to the cost of the whole event, the benefits hugely outweigh the costs. Family members, close friends – they all enjoy catching up, seeing each other and making the most of the facilities in the short space of time you are there, should they be setting up, preparing, washing up and serving food on such a special occasion? Bars require a large number of glasses and bottles to go out/top up/clear away. Please remember having staff on site also takes care of the house and avoids any damage that you may be charged for.
* Over order on drink and food instead of under ordering. You don’t want to be thinking about having to get more during your weekend and if you use Vine Wines you can return up to 30% of unused drink and freeze leftover meat from butchers etc!