

*Baby Naming
Ceremonies
Welcome your little one*



Thank you for considering Inverclyde for your child's Naming Ceremony

What is a Naming Ceremony?

A Naming Ceremony is a very special way in which parents can welcome their child(ren) to the family and the wider community. It allows you the opportunity to think about how you can be as good a parent as possible and for friends and family to confirm their special relationship with your child. It is a unique occasion for everyone to feel involved as they pledge their love and support for your child's future development.

You can also use a Naming Ceremony to mark and celebrate adopting a child or the start of a new family with children from a previous marriage.

These ceremonies are suitable for babies and for children up to 15 years of age.

What happens at a Naming Ceremony?

The Registrar will formally welcome everyone. This will be followed by the parents and Supporting Adults making a series of promises to the child as a lasting commitment for his/her future. Ask the grandparents if they would like to be involved too; they are likely to be important people in the child's life. Ceremony readings and enhancements may be included (see over) allowing you to create a unique ceremony for your child and for yourselves.

A commemorative record of the ceremony signed by those involved is presented to the parents as a token of the day.

Where can your ceremony take place?

Naming Ceremonies can be held at any hotel, town hall or any other venue, perhaps somewhere that has a special meaning to you.

How much does it cost?

The fees for ceremonies vary depending on the size, day and the venue.



Ceremony enhancements

Include other children: The ceremony is for all the family; you can include all your children if you have not previously had a naming ceremony for them.

Readings: A selection of ceremony readings are available on request.

Lighting a candle: This is done in honour of your child. The light stands for this new life and the hopes we have for the future. The warmth of the flame represents the warmth of your love and friendship.

The lighting of the candle may also represent an absent loved one. Many families have chosen to mention those people who could not attend the ceremony for one reason or another; eg. if they live in another country or are too ill to travel or have passed away.

Meaning of name: Where does your child's name come from and what does it mean? Is it after another family member or friend?

Box of letters: Ask guests to participate in your child's box of letters. We can provide a piece of note paper for each birthday until your child turns 18. You would then ask guests to write a short letter that he/she will open on that birthday. It can contain anything you like – some advice, a wish for your child or a blessing. Guests do not have to write for every birthday. When you are finished, please seal the envelope and place it in the box.

Presentation of a flower: In this ceremony, your child is given a flower. It symbolises the beauty and wonder of life and the meaning of your dedication. Whether a flower comes into full bloom or not, whether it grows tall and strong, whether its purpose is fulfilled, depends upon the nurture it receives. No flower grows alone, apart from the sunshine and the rain, apart from the soil from which it grows. So, too, no child grows up alone and the presentation of a flower shows you are here for them in all the seasons and the times of his/her days.

Presentation of a gift to the child: At an appropriate part of the ceremony the family may like to present the child with a small gift to commemorate the special occasion. The list is of course endless, but some examples include a piece of jewellery – maybe with a birth stone, silver gifts such as teddies and banks, a newspaper from the day of birth and so on.

Naming of a star: The endless sky could house a star named after your child and your personalised certificate of frame could be on display for all your guests to see.

Contact

To discuss your family requirements, please contact our dedicated team on **01475 714250** or email us at registrars@inverclyde.gov.uk

www.inverclyde.gov.uk/ceremonies



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