

Guidance on memorials in cemeteries

1. The person who is the registered owner / applicant of the right of burial is the only person who can authorise the installation of a memorial.
2. The maintenance and upkeep of a memorial stone is the responsibility of the owner / applicant of the right of burial. In the event of a memorial becoming unsafe, the council will take reasonable measures to contact the owner / applicant to arrange the necessary repairs. Where the owner / applicant cannot be contacted, the Council have the right to remove the memorial in the interests of public safety.
3. On older burial sections, where concrete rafts are not in use, the erection of a memorial may not be possible for a number of weeks, but you can still place your order with a mason as soon as you wish.
4. The council provides a temporary memorial for up to 12 months on all new graves following a burial to assist families in grave location, and until they may wish to arrange for the placing of a more permanent memorial.
5. Graves must not be surrounded with edging tiles, bricks, stones, plastic forming or any other items of a similar character. Flowers or vases may be placed on the rafts or flagged areas but not on the turf.
6. At all cemetery sites, there are regulations governing the material, size and style of memorials permitted to be placed on graves following a burial. Bereavement Services staff or memorial masons can advise on those regulations.
7. Families may not place unauthorised memorials on graves or elsewhere within the cemetery.

8. All vases must be approved of design, material and size and must be secured to the foundation and memorial. For safety reasons the use of unauthorised items or glass, earthenware or any breakable containers is not allowed. Any such items will be removed by cemetery staff.
9. All memorials, including vases, must be subject to an application to the council and receive the council's approval before such memorials or vases are erected. Details of fees payable and sizes permitted are available from Sandwell Valley Crematorium.
10. The council accepts no responsibility for any damage to or the theft of memorials from graves.
11. All memorials must be fixed on approved foundations, the surface of the foundation to be below ground level, except where being placed on rafts. All memorials to be constructed in granite, marble, slate, bronze or natural stone.
12. Grave purchasers are advised that adjacent graves may be opened in the event of an interment, and that this may preclude access to your grave for a short period of time. Any disruption will be kept to a minimum and the site made tidy after the burial has taken place.
13. The Authority currently comply with legal requirements of safe fixing and working practices including those removed for additional inscription.
14. Memorial owners are advised to consider appropriate warranty insurance for the long-term maintenance of their memorial.

If you require further information, please contact us, where the staff will be pleased to assist you.