

Children's Memorial Garden Regulations and guidance for care of the memorials

Guildford Crematorium is responsible for the garden including all planting, weeding and shrub maintenance. We ask that parents do not remove any items or memorials placed in the garden or to add any planting.

In order to maintain the atmosphere and environment within the garden it is not possible to leave memorabilia, trinkets or artificial floral tributes. Any such items will be removed by our ground staff and stored for a period of one month for your collection.

The only exception to this is the month of December. Any items left from this period will be collected by our ground staff on 6 January and stored for your safe collection for a period of one month.

Laying to Rest options:

Scatter lawn

Cremated remains may be laid to rest within the garden on the scatter lawn by appointment with the crematorium staff. Parents may lay the cremated remains to rest themselves but as a legal requirement, crematorium staff need to be present to ensure the laying to rest is recorded correctly. As this is a lawned area, there will be no exact recorded location of the laying to rest.

Private Garden

Cremated remains may be buried below ground in individual private gardens by appointment with crematorium staff. These gardens are individually marked and numbered. Parents may if they wish lay the cremated remains to rest themselves but as a legal requirement, crematorium staff need to be present to ensure the laying to rest is recorded correctly.

Memorials

All applications for the memorials within this garden are to be made with office staff. In order that staff can explain all options thoroughly, please contact the crematorium on 01483-444711 email: crematorium@guildford.gov.uk to make an appointment.

Applications for memorials

Any person may apply for a memorial within the garden but we can only legally take instruction regarding the cremated remains from the applicant for the cremation. The memorial can only have one applicant.

As the grounds are open to the public all year round we cannot accept responsibility for the safekeeping of any wreaths, flowers, plants or any other objects placed in the garden nor for any damage caused to memorials by winds, storm, inclement weather, vandalism or other factors outside of our control.

Within this garden, there is at present no opportunity to lay to rest the cremated remains of adults (persons over 16 years of age). A separate area backing on to the garden may be built in the future for this purpose and will contain family gardens for adults and children's cremated remains.

Mushroom memorials

The mushrooms are available for dedication for a period of five years. They will be maintained by our crematorium staff. There are two different sizes of plaque depending on the inscription required.

The mushrooms are made from honeycomb granite with a black granite disc and gold inscription. There is space for up to five lines of inscription. The different size discs allows for different amounts of lettering. The inscription is guaranteed for five years.

Memorial plaques will be available approximately three to four weeks after receipt of a signed proof from the applicant for the memorial.

It is not possible to scatter or bury remains by the mushrooms but these do look over the scatter lawn within the garden. Within this garden, there is no facility for an adult's cremated remains. A separate area backing on to the garden may be built in the future. This will contain family gardens for adults' and children's remains.

Care instructions

To clean the tablet, use warm, soapy water.

Individual private garden

The private gardens may be leased for 50 years. The garden has a sandstone memorial with a leaf design tablet set in the middle with plum chippings with a vase for you to place fresh flowers. The staff at the crematorium will maintain the gardens.

Cremated remains will be laid to rest below ground within a wooden casket. The casket has been specially designed for the SANDS garden by a SANDS member and comes in both infant and child size. The background of the casket is white with a forget-me-not flower design in either blue or purple. Identification labels will be placed inside and a small plate bearing the name of the baby /child will be fixed to the top of the casket.

There is no facility for adult cremated remains within this garden. A separate area backing on to the garden may be built in the future. This will contain family gardens for adults' and children's remains.

The sandstone plinth is a natural material and will wear over time. The memorial will be available approximately twenty days after receipt of a signed proof from the applicant for the memorial. Within the sandstone memorial, there is a facility for parents to leave trinkets or personal messages to their baby.

The inscription on the tablet is silver and is guaranteed for the first five years. After this point any necessary regilding will carry a cost.

Care instructions

Do not use abrasive materials, hard bristle brushes or general household cleaning creams.

- **Granite Plaque** For light dirt, deposits use clean water and a soft cloth. Particular care should be taken when cleaning dirt from the inscription.
- **Sandstone Plinth** Use clean water and, if necessary, a soft cloth. Any excessive cleaning will wear the surface over time. As a natural stone, the plinth may develop small recesses. These are air pockets trapped within the material and should be expected.

Rockery Bed Boulders

The boulders are available for dedication for a period of five years. These will be maintained by our crematorium staff. It is not possible to scatter or bury remains by the boulders but these memorials do look over the scatter lawn within the garden.

The boulders are made of Basalt (a volcanic rock – igneous rock). This is grey black in colour, which weathers to brown or rust-red over time

The lettering is cut directly into the stone, painted silver, then sealed. The tablet can accommodate up to seventy letters of inscription.

Boulders will be available approximately three weeks after receipt of a signed proof from the applicant for the memorial.

Care instructions

If you wish to clean the memorial:

- Polished face of the stone and inscription. For light dirt deposits use a clean and soft cloth. Particular care should be taken when cleaning dirt from the inscription as this can be worn away. Gently use a soft brush and clean water to clean any deposits from the inscription.
- The rest of the boulder can be lightly brushed with a soft/medium bristled brush, water and a non-ionic cleaner to remove any dirt or lichen. To prevent streaking, we would not advise cleaning memorials in direct sunlight or when they are hot.

Please note: we reserve the right from time to time to make any necessary alterations or additions to these regulations.