

COVID19 - Guidance for families

Interment of cremated remains in a grave – Wandsworth Cemeteries

Thank you for your enquiry or for booking an appointment to inter your loved ones cremated remains in a grave. With the pandemic still a threat we ask that you adhere to this guidance and share this with your family and the other people who may wish to attend the interment. Our priority is your safety and that of our staff. We also want to ensure a dignified moment for you to bury your loved one's ashes.

Restrictions.

The numbers of attendees permitted is limited to 16 people who must socially distance at least 2 meters from each household group. We will need you to control this. Please also keep your distance from staff and allow them to do their duties whilst remaining safe. Anyone who intends to be there on the day who has symptoms or who has been told to self-isolate must not attend.

NHS test and trace – As the lead person we ask that you list the names and contact numbers for the group of people in your party. Please retain this list for 21 days after the appointment. If we are contacted by the NHS we will contact you and advise you further.

On the day.

Please aim to arrive in good time, we suggest 10 minutes before your appointment. We will meet you at the graveside shortly before the appointment time. If the grave is at Putney Vale Cemetery, please park near to the grave as we have limited parking at the cemetery at this time.

If you are bringing your loved ones cremated remains on the day, please wait until the attendant arrives before placing them in the grave as we need to carry out a legal check of the nameplate prior to the interment.

If we are looking after your loved ones cremated remains, we will bring them to the grave and place them nearby to give you some time to say a few words if you choose. We will discuss with you whether you wish to lower the container into the ground or if you would like us to do this for you. In this case this may be carried out by a gravedigger but will be overseen by the attendant.

If you would like a minister or celebrant to officiate at the graveside you will need to organise this directly with them, otherwise once the cremated remains have been lowered into the grave we will move a little distance away and will give you some time to say a few words should you wish. We regret that our attendant will not offer any form of reading or prayer.

We are currently unable to allow you to backfill the grave yourselves. You may however sprinkle some soil into the grave. There will be a container nearby.

10 minutes after the lowering of the cremated remains we ask that you move away from the grave to allow for the gravedigger to backfill the grave and make the area tidy. This usually takes around 10 minutes. You may choose to leave prior to this. The attendant will leave the area at this stage. Once the grave digger has moved away you are more than welcome to spend as long as you need at the graveside. Once the backfill is completed the gravedigger will leave the area.

If you have any further questions prior to the appointment, please contact the office on 020 3959 0090 and a member of staff will be happy to help. Otherwise the attendant will be able to answer questions on the day.

We thank you for your understanding, particularly of the restrictions at this time.