Oscott Cemetery Rules & Regulations Booklet



November 2026

Latest version available at www.oscott.org/cemetery

Cemetery Office
Telephone number 0121 321 5026
Opening Hours, Monday to Thursday 10.00am to 2.00pm

Admission to Cemetery

Unsocial behaviour and the playing of ball games are prohibited. Children under 12 years of age should be accompanied by an adult.

The speed limit in the cemetery is 10 mph.

No person shall prevent, interrupt or delay a burial by behaviour inappropriate for a cemetery.

No person shall sit, stand or climb on any memorial in the cemetery or any gate, tree, hedge or wall of the cemetery.

The riding of bicycles is not permitted in the cemetery.

Dogs shall be kept on a lead at all times in the cemetery.

Admission into the cemetery is between the hours of 9am and 4pm each day of the year. However, the cemetery reserves the right to close the cemetery for maintenance work by giving notice on the gates. This should state times and dates of interrupted visiting.

Decoration of graves

No kerb sets, fencing, benches, stones and edgings of any kind are allowed to mark the dimensions of the plot. No shrubs or plants are to be planted on the plot. Metal or plastic railings or palisading will not be allowed around any grave. These will be removed by the cemetery office. New graves are lawn only and the only marker allowed is a permanent memorial at the head of the grave.

- No grave mounding is permitted.
- Wind chimes and windmills are not permitted.
- Balloons and balloon releases are not permitted.
- Glass items, including vases are not permitted.
- Drones are not permitted.
- Flares and fireworks are not permitted.

The scattering of cremated remains on a grave is not permitted.

The cemetery office will not be liable for any breakages to any moveable objects or statues placed on the grave.

The cemetery office will remove dead floral tributes, this will normally occur between 2 and 4 weeks after the burial. Christmas wreaths will be removed in the 2nd

week of February every year (depending on weather conditions).

The cemetery office will keep the new grave topped up with soil and once the grave has adequately settled, the grave will be turfed or grass seeded.

The cemetery office will request that additional items left on the grave, other than by the headstone or marker cross are removed. Failure to comply will result in the cemetery office removing the items.

Erection of Memorials

The right to erect a memorial may be applied only when the exclusive right of burial for the grave space has been purchased. Only the registered owner has the right to apply for the erection of a memorial.

An application permit for the right to erect a memorial, an additional inscription, refurbishment, re-fix or replace an existing memorial must be submitted to the cemetery office on the cemetery's permit form with payment.

If the owner of the grave is deceased, ownership of that grave will need to be transferred to a person who is legally entitled at a cost.

Any memorial work must be fixed to the foundation using an approved support system (as detailed in the National Association of Memorial Masons Code of Working Practice) or dowelled into the foundation slab

using the specification of dowels as laid down in the above-mentioned code of practice. Foundation slabs must be 3ft 6” x 18” x 3” set into the ground with the top of the foundation slab level with the soil at the lowest point.

It is necessary to let a grave settle before a permanent memorial is permitted (9 to 12 months). However, a temporary wooden cross may be placed on the grave and should not exceed 3ft above ground level, and no more than 2ft wide. The temporary marker should be removed by the owner when the permanent memorial is fixed. The cemetery office reserves the right to remove any temporary markers should they fall into disrepair.

No memorial shall exceed 4ft high and 2ft 6 inches wide (48 inches high and 30 inches wide). Minimum thickness is no less than 2 inches, if not exceeding 2ft 6” in height or not less than 3” in thickness if over 2ft 6” in height.

All cremated remains interred in the cremation section must be covered by a tablet or desk top measuring 18” x 24” (portrait style)

Sizes above relate to all new sections and lawned sections of the cemetery. In view of the varying cemetery sections, it will be necessary for each written application for a grant of memorial right to be considered on an individual basis and compliance with other appropriate regulations will be a requirement.

Inspection of Memorials

The cemetery office carries out inspections of memorials on an annual basis. Any memorials deemed to be unsafe will be tagged for the owner to contact the cemetery office. If the memorial is deemed to be in danger of falling over it will be laid down and tagged.

Removal of Memorials

No memorial shall be removed from the cemetery without the permission of the cemetery office. We, however, reserve the right to be able to move a memorial for access to carry out a burial and replace the memorial as soon as possible afterwards.

Responsibility for Memorials

Any memorial erected in the cemetery remains the property and responsibility of the owner of the Exclusive Right of Burial and remains in the cemetery at their sole risk. All memorials must be kept in a good state of repair.

The cemetery office will not accept liability for any damage to any grave or memorial or injury to a person within the cemetery except where such damage is directly attributable to the negligence of the cemetery office and its workers.

Oscott Cemetery Guidelines for what can be written on a headstone:

1. Essential Information

No stone can be erected in the cemetery, until it has been approved via the OSCOTT COLLEGE CEMETERY MEMORIAL PERMIT system, and an exact location is agreed with the cemetery office.
Headstones usually must include:

- **Full Name:** The legal forename and surname of the deceased.
- **Dates:** Date of birth and death, or date of death and age.
- **Optional:** Maiden names or familiar names (nicknames) can also be included, required to be in inverted commas.

2. General Content Guidelines

- **Respectful and Appropriate:** The wording should be simple and meaningful.
- **Lasting Tribute:** Phrases should be appropriate for future generations to read.
- **Permitted Additions:** Short phrases, quotes from literature, poems, hymns, or religious texts are typically allowed.
- **Relationships:** Mentions of roles like "Beloved Mother," "Cherished Son," or "Devoted Husband" .
- **Symbols:** Natural objects like flowers, birds, or religious symbols (crosses, stars) are permitted.
- **Additional Names:** Inscriptions may only include references to those interred within the grave.

3. Restrictions and Limitations

- **No Offensive Language:** Profanity, derogatory, or hateful language is strictly prohibited.
- **Churchyard Rules:** Oscott Cemetery require inscriptions to be "theologically acceptable".
- **No Commercialism:** Advertising or commercial wording is not permitted.
- **Lettering Types:** Font size and type must be legible.
- **Translations:** Translations of any inscriptions in languages other than English, must be provided to the cemetery office.
- **Discretion:** The Cemetery reserves the right to refuse or request amendments to any inscription that is considered inappropriate, misleading, or likely to give rise to conflict or distress.

4. Approval Process

- **Ownership:** Only the holder of the "Exclusive Right of Burial" (Deed of Grant) can authorize a headstone.
- **Pre-Approval:** All inscriptions must be approved by the cemetery office before a stone is erected, following the OSCOTT COLLEGE CEMETERY MEMORIAL PERMIT system.
- **Responsibility for Inscription Content:** The holder of the Exclusive Right of Burial is solely responsible for the accuracy and content of any inscription. The cemetery does not verify family relationships or the inclusion of named individuals on a memorial.