

Weston Road Lawn Cemetery General Information and Regulations

The burial grounds in Stevenage provide attractive, peaceful green spaces for all visitors to enjoy, whether for remembering a loved one or to simply take some time for quiet reflection.

All visitors are welcome to our cemeteries, and we ask that everyone respects the peace, dignity and reverence of these facilities, as well as other users.

The Borough Council takes pride in maintaining Weston Road Cemetery to a high standard with the graves in the cemetery covered in lawn and memorials placed at the head of the graves. The information below sets out how the council will manage the cemetery and the part families' and visitors can play to ensure that by working together Weston Road is safe, accessible and sustainable.



Behaviour in Cemeteries

All visitors are welcome, and we ask that everyone behaves in an appropriate manner:

- All visitors shall behave in a quiet, orderly and respectful manner
- Visitors shall not cause a nuisance or interfere with any burial taking place or any grave or memorial
- All visitors shall make full and appropriate use of the recycling facilities provided on site
- No sports or games or discharge of firearms (unless at a military funeral) are permitted
- Any person, who damages, defaces or destroys any property or causes a nuisance in the cemeteries may be prosecuted
- Dogs are permitted in the cemetery grounds provided they are always kept on a suitable lead and under control. Owners, or handlers, must take full responsibility for their animal and must observe appropriate standards of behaviour and cleanliness
- Dogs, except for assistance dogs, or any other animals are not permitted in the cemetery buildings without the prior agreement of the Cemetery Office
- Vehicles must not exceed 10 miles an hour and must use the one-way system
- Vehicles must not park on any grassed area
- Vehicles may be prevented from entering the cemeteries during maintenance work
- Children under 11 years of age must be accompanied by a responsible person
- No demonstrations of any kind are allowed
- Drinking of alcohol and taking of illegal substances is prohibited within the cemetery buildings and grounds

Graves:

Our graves can accommodate a maximum of three burial interments, six ashes interments or a combination of both, subject to ground conditions.

- The council will maintain the lawn area of all graves.
- The owner (with the Deed of Grant) is responsible for the management and maintenance of any memorial on the grave.
- The council will routinely check each grave and if required place extra soil on the grave to keep the ground level. At the appropriate time of the year grass seed will be sown.
- Fresh floral arrangements will be removed from all graves when they have withered, and the council will dispose of them through recycling.
- Placing anything on the grave space, which prevents the grave being topped up with soil or restricts regular grass cutting is prohibited.
- Grave space owners are permitted to place fresh, seasonal plants and flowers within 150mm (6 inches) of the front edge of the concrete beam at the head of the grave. Families should maintain this area themselves in order that the council's cemetery staff does not have to disturb any items during their maintenance activities.
- There can be no kerbstones, fencing, individual gardens or markers to show the boundary of an individual grave.
- Grave mounds are only permitted with the agreement of the Council in the case of Muslim graves
- All pots, vases and items of memorabilia are to be kept on the concrete beam and should not be made of glass.
- The council will remove any item, material or inscription on the grounds of taste, decency or possible offence to any person, faith or community.
- The council will remove any item deemed to be dangerous without prior notice.
- The council reserves the right to remove any faded flowers, vases, bottles, tins or any objects, which, in their opinion, are objectionable or unsightly.
- The council reserves the right to remove any item placed in or on trees

- Litter or faded flowers should be disposed of in the bins provided for this purpose.
- Any items left on the graves, are left at the owners risk, Stevenage Borough Council does not accept any responsibility for loss or damage to those items.

Cemetery Chapel: The Cemetery Chapel is available for services and comfortably seats 40; if families are expecting more participants, we can remove some chairs to enable standing room.

Re-opening of Existing Graves:

All visitors to the cemetery are advised that when an existing grave space needs to be re-opened for a further burial or a family have asked to fill the grave themselves, it may be necessary to place the removed earth on an adjacent plot.

The cemetery staff takes every possible care in this task and if a grave that you visit and tend is affected you are asked to understand that the situation is unavoidable and will pertain for the shortest possible duration.

Child Graves:

Parents, who have not purchased the Grant of Exclusive Right of Burial on a child grave at the time of the funeral, are able to purchase the deed to that grave at a later date.

Temporary Markers:

After the funeral, the grave can be marked at the head with a marker or temporary wooden memorial of a single cross type not exceeding 3' in height and 1' 6" in width. This can be inscribed with the name and plot number of the person recently buried in the grave, until such time as a permanent memorial is erected.

The Memorial Gardens – Cremated Remains Only:

The Gardens are located centrally within the Cemetery and comprise of; The Garden of Rest and Rose Gardens, which have been designed for two interments only in each plot.

Garden of Rest:

This area has been laid out on grass with a maximum of one memorial placed on a base slab provided by the council.

- The base slab will measure approximately 20" x 18" (508mm x 457mm)
- The memorial must not exceed 18" x 16" x 3" thick (475mm x 406mm x 76mm) with a maximum height of 18". The base stone must not exceed 20" x 18" x 2" thick (508mm x 457mm x 51 mm).
- All memorials in the garden of rest must be fitted to the base slab provided by the council and we shall not permit any gravestones, fencing, railings, vases or the like.
- Permanent memorials may only be erected on Garden of Rest plots where the Grant of Exclusive Right of Burial has been purchased.
- The Memorial Application Form will be supplied from a Stonemason of your choice and requires the signature and printed name and address of the grant owner before any work is approved.
- Please be aware that there is a memorial approval fee charged by the council in respect of all new memorials affixed in the cemetery and additional inscriptions on existing memorials.

Memorial Rose Gardens:

The Rose Gardens have been set out with individual beds on either side of the central path; the Council will determine the planting position of the Rose.

- The only items permitted within the rose gardens are the authorised roses and plaques, any items found will be removed.

- If the Rose deteriorates or the plaque breaks, at any time, please inform the cemetery office who will arrange for a replacement, a fee maybe charged.
- Maintenance of the gardens will be carried out by cemetery staff during the appropriate seasons

The Lawn Birches:

This peaceful area set amongst silver birch trees is for the scattering of ashes only

- No memorial items or artificial flowers are permitted within the Lawn Birches area.
- Please ensure the ashes are scattered from the original Crematorium container only.
- Once the ashes have been scattered an exhumation is not possible.

Memorials:

- Only approved headstones and flower vases of a limited size are permitted as memorials.
- A headstone or cross type memorial can be of white marble, granite (black, grey, blue, green, red, brown etc.) or nebresina.
- The overall size must not exceed 3' in height including the base x 2'6" wide x 4" thick (900mm x 750mm x 100mm)
- Memorials are fixed in double rows in a 'back-to-back' arrangement on a pre-installed concrete beam. An advantage of the concrete beams is that any memorial may be fixed immediately.
- Permanent memorials may only be erected on graves where the Grant of Exclusive Right of Burial has been purchased.
- The Memorial Application Form will be supplied from a Stonemason of your choice and requires the signature and printed name and address of the grant owner before any work is approved.
- Please be aware that there is a memorial approval fee charged by the council in respect of all new memorials affixed in the cemetery and additional inscriptions on existing memorials.

If the person named on the Grant of Exclusive Right of Burial deed that has moved or is moving house, they should contact the cemetery office with the new address. Telephone Number: 01438 367109 or e-mail us at cemeteries@stevenage.gov.uk

Memorial Safety:

To comply with guidelines from the Health and Safety Executive we are required to survey every memorial to ensure they are in a stable condition and do not pose any immediate danger to visitors and staff working in the cemeteries.

Every five years a Memorial Safety Test is undertaken, if movement of a memorial is detected or it is deemed to be unsafe, under the guidelines issued by the HSE the memorial will be laid down for safety reasons and we will endeavour to contact the grave owner to inform them.

When visiting the cemetery, if you notice any movement of your memorial, please inform the cemetery staff and contact your stonemason to secure your memorial, if you are not sure what to do, please ask the cemetery staff to check the memorial with you.

Stonemasons who erect memorials in the council cemeteries have agreed to the fixing procedures recommended by Stevenage Borough Council.

Mulberry Memorial Tree:

The Mulberry Memorial Tree is a memory tree, positioned in the centre of Weston Road cemetery surrounded by rose and shrub gardens. You can purchase a leaf to hang from the tree in commemoration of a loved one.

The inscribed granite leaves are hand made and in the form of a handmade heart with gilded letters which are positioned on branches made from weathered corteen steel and a hand carved granite trunk.

A motif of either a Butterfly, Ladybirds, Four Leaf Clover, Acorn, Heart, Cross, Robin, Feather, Doves, or Bumble Bee can be added for an additional cost.

The leaves are leased for a period of 5 years, which can be renewed when this period expires.

Memorial Walls:

Positions on the Memorial Walls are available to place floral tributes. For people wishing to purchase a position on the wall with a plaque and flower container, a fee will be charged for a period of 5 years which can be renewed when this period expires.

Remembrance Online:

Celebrate and honour the lives of your loved ones with Remembrance Online, a platform that beautifully merges tradition with the convenience of the digital age. Our unique memorial entries mirror the timeless elegance of the traditional Book of Remembrance, offering you a heartfelt space to cherish.

Memorial Benches:

- Stevenage Borough Council will purchase and locate all memorial benches; however families can request a particular area and if it is deemed suitable the bench will be positioned as requested.
- The benches will be maintained by the council only and will remain council property.
- A name plaque may be purchased and installed on a memorial bench for a period of 10 years, with the ongoing option to renew the agreement.
- No items are to be placed on or around the memorial benches and any such item may be removed without prior notice.
- Regular inspections of all memorial benches will be undertaken and any that are deemed unsafe will be removed. All reasonable efforts will be made to inform the purchaser if the bench should be removed.

Memorial Trees

- Families can sponsor a tree to be planted, and a list of appropriate species and suitable locations will be provided.
- Cemeteries staff will liaise with the sponsor to agree the location of the tree, but due to the layout and ongoing management of the cemeteries, it may not be possible to deliver the preferred location of the sponsor.
- The cost of a memorial tree includes the supply of the chosen tree, planting and the first year's maintenance, including watering. Families are encouraged to water the tree when they are on site to assist with the tree's establishment and health.
- In accordance with best practice, trees will be planted during the winter months when the trees are dormant.
- The Council will not accept responsibility or liability in the case of a tree being damaged or dying, unless this is shown to be due to negligence by the Council.
- Damaged memorial trees will be replaced during the next planting season. This may require a further payment to cover cost and maintenance of the new tree.
- Dedication of a memorial tree does not give the donor any right to determine or influence the future management of the specific tree in any way. Should the memorial tree become a risk to property or people, removal will be considered, although all options will be explored to avoid this.
- No items are to be placed on or around the memorial tree other than the authorised memorial plaque. Any item(s) placed there may be removed without prior notice.

Chapel Wake Venue:

The stunning and unique chapel at Weston Road Cemetery can be hired for private gatherings and wakes for £60 an hour.

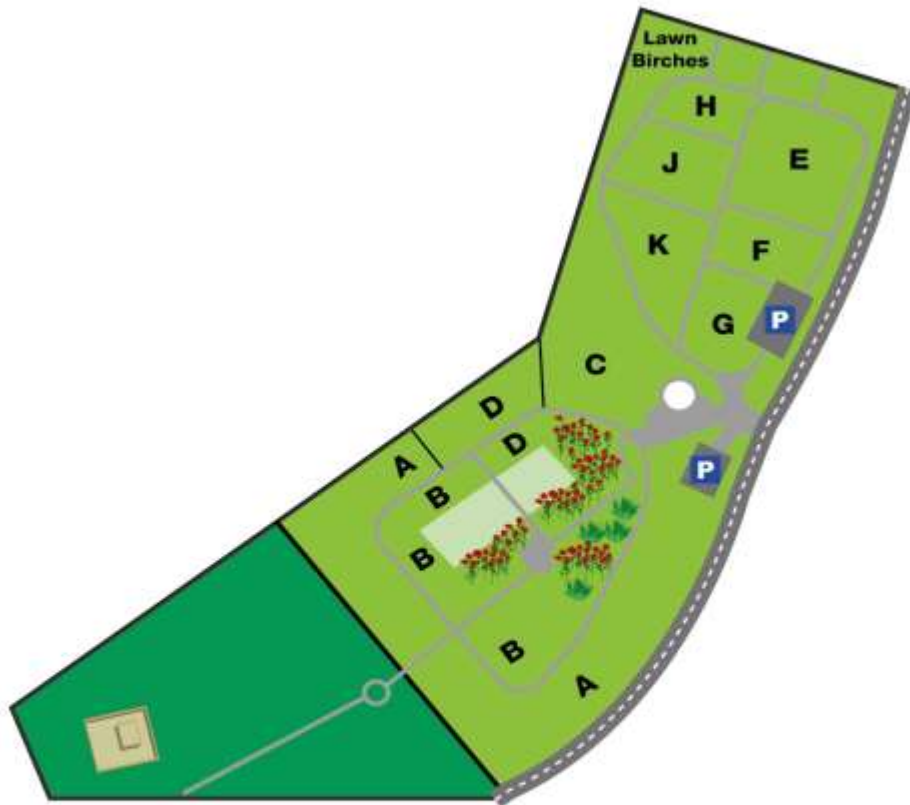
- Tea and coffee facilities available
- Peaceful location
- Private hire offers flexible options on caterers

Grave Maintenance/Attendance Services:







We have a variety of grave maintenance options available to assist grave owners and families that do not live close to the area and are unable to visit on a regular basis. The options have been designed to help keep your loved ones plots clean and tidy all year round.

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| 1. Platinum Service | 4 x per annum
Grave tidy/weeding, memorial wash
2 x per annum
Planting of spring and autumn bulbs2 |
| 2. Gold Service | 2 x per annum
Grave tidy/weeding, memorial wash
1 x per annum
Planting of spring OR autumn bulbs |
| 3. Silver Service | 2 x per annum
Grave tidy/weeding, memorial wash |
| 4. Turf Laying | |
| 5. Turf Maintenance / General weeding | 2 x per annum |

Further information on our cemeteries is available in the Cemetery Services Policy
<https://www.stevenage.gov.uk/about-the-council/cemeteries/our-cemeteries>



Key:

 Car park	 Rose garden and shrub gardens	 Garden of Rest
 Foot path	 Chapel and toilets	 St Nicholas Church and Graveyard

How to get there: Weston Road Cemetery lies in the north of the town. The entrance is from Weston Road and the nearest bus stop is in Canterbury Way which is a short walk from the cemetery.

The address is:

Weston Road Cemetery, Weston Road, Stevenage, SG1 4DE

Contact Details:

Cemetery Services
 Stevenage Borough Council
 Cavendish Road
 Stevenage
 SG1 2ET
 01438 367109
 cemeteries@stevenage.gov.uk

<https://www.stevenage.gov.uk/about-the-council/cemeteries>