

Information for Parents: Placing Personal Items with Your Baby Prior to Cremation

Many parents wish to place personal items, keepsakes, or mementoes with their baby. We understand how important these items can be and how comforting it may feel to include something special. However, for safety and environmental reasons, some restrictions apply.

Why Are There Restrictions?

Cremation is a carefully regulated process designed to ensure safety, protect the environment, and preserve the dignity of those entrusted to our care.

Certain materials can:

- Create safety risks during the cremation process
- Damage cremation equipment
- Release harmful emissions into the atmosphere
- Interfere with the cremation process and the recovery of cremated remains

For these reasons, only suitable items may be placed with the coffin.

Items That May Be Permitted

The following items can normally be included:

- Small letters, cards, drawings, or photographs
- Flowers and flower petals
- Natural wooden keepsakes
- Cardboard or biodegradable mementoes

If you are planning to include an item not listed above, please contact us for advice before the cremation takes place.

Items That Cannot Be Included

For safety and environmental reasons, the following items are not permitted:

- Batteries of any kind
- Electronic devices
- Glass items
- Metal objects
- Toys, including soft toys and plastic toys
- Aerosols, liquids, or pressurised containers
- Candles or items containing flammable fuels

Jewellery and Precious Keepsakes

If you would like a treasured item to accompany your baby, please discuss this with us beforehand.

In some circumstances, alternative arrangements may be possible. For example, you may wish to place a photograph of the item within the coffin instead.

Please be aware that any item placed in the coffin and cremated cannot be recovered afterwards.

If You Are Unsure

Our team is here to help and support you.

If there is a particular item you would like to place with your baby, please speak to a member of the Bereavement Services team before the cremation. We will always do our best to accommodate your wishes where it is safe and appropriate to do so.

Contact Us

Barnsley Bereavement Services

Telephone: 01226 206053

Email: bereavementservices@barnsley.gov.uk

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to get in touch. Our staff will be happy to offer guidance and support.