

THE STANDARD MEMORIAL from Diocesan Handbook

1. Upright headstones should be:
 - (a) **No more than 4 feet (1200mm) high** (measured from the surface of the ground), **or less than 2 feet 6 inches (750mm) high** (measured from the surface of the ground);
 - (b) **No more than 3 feet (900mm) wide, or less than 1 foot 8 inches (500mm) wide;**
 - (c) **No more than 6 inches (150mm) thick, or less than 3 inches (75mm) thick**, except in the case of slate memorials which may be thinner, but no less than 1.5 inches (38mm) thick.
2. For a **child** the headstone may be **smaller**, but should be **no less than 2 feet (600mm) high, 1 foot 3 inches (375mm) wide and 2 inches (50mm) thick.**
3. **Headstones** may be of three types:
 - (a) So shaped that they can be inserted directly into the ground at sufficient depth to ensure stability
 - (b) On an integral base, **no more than 9 inches (225mm) high, 3 feet (900mm) wide or projecting 4 inches (100mm) in any direction;**
 - (c) On a **vase base, no more than 4 inches (100mm) on either side; the base being no more than 1 foot 3 inches (375mm) front to back.**
4. It is **only when a proposed design departs significantly from the standard dimensions that permission will need to be sought from the Chancellor or Archdeacon of the Diocese.**

Subject to any other consideration, a memorial in the following types of stone does not require faculty, that is separate, external, permission:

Limestone – Portland, Purbeck, Derbyshire, York, Hopton, Nabresina, French, Portuguese;

Slate – Light Grey, Blue/Black, Green;

Granite – Light Grey.

Granite in Rustenberg (Charcoal) Grey is also permitted, provided the stone is rubbed to a matt finish rather than polished.

Under no circumstances will a photograph or ceramic portrait of the deceased be permitted on a churchyard memorial without a faculty; and the prospect of a faculty being granted in the present climate of opinion is extremely unlikely.

The same principle applies to stone, concrete, metal, plaster or plastic objects, such as model people, animals or toys, and to windmills or jangling trinkets designed to make a noise when the wind blows. **No such object may be permitted on a grave without a faculty, and such a faculty is most unlikely to be granted.**

Similar considerations apply to proposals for memorials in **dark granite, in synthetic stone or in marble, or in highly-polished, reflective stone, which require faculty permission** because they are outside the standard guidelines. Memorials of this kind have become very popular in municipal cemeteries in recent years. Unfortunately, black or red granite, or white marble, particularly if polished, tends to stand out in a churchyard. Such stone rarely blends well with the church itself, and looks out of place amongst memorials made from the more traditional kinds of stone used in Hampshire and Dorset.