



20 December 2024

Dear Parent / Guardian,

Re: E-bikes and E-scooters

As we approach a school holiday, I would like to remind you about the increasing concerns regarding the use of e-scooters. It is important to note that the use of privately owned e-scooters is illegal on public roads, pavements and cycle lanes, they are only legally allowed to be used on private land with the landowners' permission.

If young people are found riding a privately owned e-scooter in public, they are committing road traffic offences. Therefore, they could receive a warning, fine, penalty points on their licence (which would be created in the absence of one) their e-scooter may be seized, and this could result in the e-scooter being destroyed. The only e-scooters which can be lawfully used in public, are those which are part of an approved local authority scheme.

These schemes require users to register through an App and ensure the user has the appropriate licence and insurance. You may be aware that e-scooters have become a popular mode of transport amongst young people. However, their use poses significant safety risks, particularly in school environments. E-scooters can reach high speeds and there have been a number of recent reports of accidents which have led to serious injuries in the Thames Valley. The lack of protective gear further exacerbates the risk of injury.



Above, are some images of fires caused by e-scooters and e-bikes provided by the fire service. They can alight whether they are charging or not, and batteries can stay alight for weeks under water!

Please find below further safety guidance on e-scooters and e-bikes.

We hope that all our young people stay safe over the break.

Yours sincerely,

Miss Burns
Deputy Headteacher
Safeguarding Lead



E-BIKES

What you need to know



You can only ride an e-bike if it (and you!) meet certain requirements.



Did you know you can only ride an e-bike if it meets certain requirements and you are 14 years or over?

Electric bikes are also known as ‘electronically assisted pedal cycles (EAPC)’ or e-bikes. E-bikes must have pedals that can be used to propel it, and it must show either the power output, or manufacturer of the motor **and** either the batteries voltage, or maximum speed of the bike.

The electric motor must have a maximum power output of 250W, and should not be able to propel the bike when it is travelling more than 15.5mph.

If an e-bike does not meet these requirements then it is classed as a motorcycle or moped, and needs to be registered, taxed and insured, you also need a driving licence and to wear a helmet.

If you are riding an e-bike which does not meet these requirements and it is not registered, taxed or insured, your e-bike could be seized.



E-SCOOTERS

What you need to know



It's illegal to ride a privately owned electric scooter in public



Did you know it's illegal to ride a privately owned electric scooter (e-scooter) in public?



That's because e-scooters are classed as motor vehicles in law. So, in theory, this means that you need an MOT, road tax and insurance to use one, however it isn't currently possible to register e-scooters in this way.

Privately owned e-scooters can only be used on private land, with the permission of the landowner.

You cannot use a privately owned e-scooter on the road, pavement or in a public space. If you do then you risk receiving a large fine, points on your driving licence and your e-scooter could be seized.

Some parts of the UK are running government trials of rental e-scooters. If you're over 16 and have a full or provisional driving licence, then you can use these on public roads and cycle paths.

Just check that your driving licence covers categories AM, A or B.

