

Dear Headteacher,

We would like to draw your attention to the matter of **electric scooters (e-scooters)**.

There continues to be an increasing number of individuals riding e-scooters on the public highway, pavements and in public open spaces.

E-Scooters are classed as motor vehicles and are required to be taxed and insured. It is not possible to get insurance for privately owned e-scooters, which means it is illegal to use them on the road or in public spaces, such as pavements.

We understand many parents/carers may wish to purchase an e-scooter or perhaps already have, so therefore we urge you to disseminate the following information throughout your school community.

Enforcement

The police are obliged to take action against anyone who is caught repeatedly using an e-scooter illegally or in a way that causes a nuisance to others. In these circumstances, the police have the power to seize the e-scooter under Section 59 of the Police Reform Act/165 of the Road Traffic Act.

You risk a £300 fine, six penalty points endorsed on your driving licence and the E-Scooter being seized. If you do not currently hold a driving licence at the time of the offence, you may be prosecuted and may have to go to court, whereby the fine can increase and your ability to obtain a driving licence in the future may be affected. If you purchase an E-Scooter, it can only be used on private land with the landowner's consent.

Fire Safety

Kent Fire and Rescue Service always advise people to use, charge and store lithium-ion batteries safely and responsibly to help reduce the risk of a fire.

Lithium-ion batteries, or li-ion batteries (sometimes called LIBs) are found in many household items, including mobile phones, laptops, e-bikes, e-scooters, vaping devices, and vacuums.

If used or stored incorrectly, there is a risk these batteries could ignite or start a fire.

To help avoid an emergency, remember to:

- Buy electrical items from a reputable retailer
- Follow the manufacturer's guidance on charging and storing
- Only charge during the day when you are at home, and on a non-flammable surface
- Always unplug after use or when charged
- Avoid storing, using or charging batteries at very high or low temperatures
- Protect batteries from being damaged, such as being crushed, punctured, or immersed in water. If a battery has been damaged, don't use it.

And make sure to register electrical items at www.registermyappliance.org.uk/.

Additional information

For further detailed information regarding e-scooters please visit GOV.UK:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/powered-transporters/information-sheet-guidance-on-powered-transporters>



The Government is currently trialling the use of approved rental e-scooters as environmentally friendly modes of transport in some specific locations in the UK (find out more here: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/e-scooter-trials-guidance-for-users>).

There are no e-scooter trials within Kent or Medway.

Yours Sincerely,
The Road Safety Team, Medway Council



Kent Fire &
Rescue Service

together



E-scooters – are you breaking the law?



Can I ride my e-scooter to school or work?

No, it's Illegal...

E-scooters are classed as motor vehicles and are required to be taxed and insured. It's not possible to get insurance for privately owned e-scooters, which means it's illegal to use them.

Can I ride my e-scooter on the pavement?

No, it's Illegal...

You cannot use e-scooters on public footpaths, cycle lanes or roads.

What happens if I'm caught using my e-scooter in public spaces?

The scooter may be seized and as a result, destroyed.

If stopped by an officer, you may be asked to complete a breath and drugs test. You also risk a £300 fine and six penalty points on your licence for no insurance.



**Kent
Police**

Think before you buy:

The number of electrical scooters being used on our streets has risen, as well as reports of serious injury and fatalities.

For more information and advice on the use of e-scooters visit www.kent.police.uk/road-safety