

Dear Head Teacher,

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 advises 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.



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