KH/PP/TM/E-Scooters

Dear Parents and Carers,

Important Information Regarding E-Scooters

Barr Beacon School
www.barrbeaconschool.co.uk

With Christmas approaching, I am aware that some families may be considering purchasing an electric scooter (e-scooter) as a gift for their child. Before doing so, it is important that parents and carers understand the law surrounding their use, as well as the potential safety risks and consequences of using them illegally.

At Barr Beacon School, we have high expectations of our pupils, both in school and when representing us in the wider community. Our Beacon Values encourage pupils to Act Responsibly, show Consideration for Others and Own What You Do. This includes making safe and responsible choices when travelling to and from school.

It is important to understand that privately owned e-scooters cannot legally be ridden on public roads, pavements, cycle lanes or in other public spaces. Under current UK legislation, e-scooters are classed as motor vehicles and require appropriate insurance and licensing. As privately owned e-scooters cannot currently be insured for use on public roads, they can only be used on private land with the landowner's permission.

There are also significant safety concerns associated with e-scooters, particularly when used on busy roads and pavements. Their use can put both riders and other members of the public at risk, including pedestrians and other road users. Anyone found using an e-scooter illegally also risks having it seized by the police, receiving a fine or facing prosecution.
We work closely with West Midlands Police to promote the safety of our pupils and the wider community. We fully support their efforts to tackle the illegal and dangerous use of e-scooters and will continue to work in partnership with them where concerns arise.
We ask parents and carers to support us by ensuring their children do not use privately owned e-scooters to travel to and from school. With Christmas approaching, we would also strongly encourage families considering purchasing an e-scooter to understand the legal restrictions and safety implications before making that decision.

Our strong partnership with parents and carers is essential in reinforcing the high expectations we have of our pupils. By working together, we can help young people make responsible decisions, understand the consequences of their actions and ensure the safety of our school and local community.

Please take a moment to read the attached information leaflet produced by West Midlands Police, which provides further guidance on the law, safety considerations and the potential consequences of illegal e-scooter use.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs K Hibbs
Headteacher

PENALTIES AND OFFENCES FOR E-SCOOTERS

If you breach the rules when using an e-scooter you could face a fixed penalty notice.

SEEN DANGEROUS RIDING? LET US KNOW!

If you spot someone riding e-bikes or e-scooters dangerously and capture it on your dashcam, CCTV, or a passenger's mobile phone, we want to hear from you.



WANT TO LEARN MORE?

For more information, visit our website or scan the QR code on this page.

West Midlands POLICE

Working in partnership, making communities safer
westmidlands.police.uk

020525CD

WE'RE PUTTING THE BRAKES ON ILLEGAL E-RIDERS

Electric bikes and scooters are becoming increasingly popular in the city but before you ride, it's important to understand the rules.

Using an illegal electric bike or scooter can lead to serious consequences - not just for you, but for others around you.

This leaflet contains information you need to know to stay safe and on the right side of the law.



West Midlands POLICE

WHAT MAKES AN ELECTRIC BIKE OR SCOOTER ILLEGAL?

Electric bikes: If the bike can go faster than 3.7mph unassisted, or over 15.5mph assisted, or if the motor produces more than 250 watts, it's classed as a motor vehicle and riders must comply with road traffic laws.

Electric scooters: Most privately-owned electric scooters are illegal to ride on public roads, pavements, or cycle lanes unless specifically approved for use by the Department for Transport.

WHERE CAN YOU RIDE LEGALLY?

Electric bikes: Approved e-bikes can be used on roads, cycle paths, and other places bikes are allowed. You don't need a licence or insurance. You must check your e-bike meets EPAC (electrically assisted pedal cycles) regulations.

Electric scooters: Privately-owned scooters can only be used on private property (with permission). It's illegal to use them on public roads or pavements.

WHAT HAPPENS IF YOU BREAK THE LAW?

Riding an illegal electric bike or scooter could result in:

- Fines, penalty points on your licence, or even prosecution.
- Seizure of your vehicle.
- Risk to yourself and others due to lack of safety features like insurance or proper maintenance.

STAY SAFE AND CHOOSE WISELY

If you're planning to purchase or use an electric bike or scooter, make sure it complies with UK regulations. Look for approved models and understand where you're allowed to ride. It's always better to double-check than to risk breaking the law.

We want to keep you and others safe. Illegal vehicles can pose serious risks to pedestrians, drivers, and cyclists. By following the law, you're helping make roads and public spaces safer for everyone.

WHAT IS AN E-SCOOTER?

E-scooters are classed as motor vehicles under the Road Traffic Act 1988. This means the rules that apply to motor vehicles, also apply to e-scooters, including the need to have a licence and insurance.

It's not currently possible to get insurance for privately-owned e-scooters. This means it's illegal to use them on the road or in public spaces, such as parks, street pavements, and shopping centres.

If you use a privately-owned e-scooter in public, you risk the vehicle being seized under S.165 Road Traffic Act 1988 for having no insurance.

If you cause serious harm to another person whilst riding an e-scooter, the incident will be investigated in the same way it would if you were riding a motorcycle or driving a car.

RENTAL E-SCOOTERS

E-scooters are available for rent in designated Beryl bays throughout the city centre and surrounding areas. Riders must be 18 years old and have a valid UK driving licence to participate.

Where a rental trial scheme is running, rental e-scooters can be used on public roads, some cycle lanes, and other public spaces. But you must follow the relevant road traffic laws. If you don't, you could face prosecution.

To use a rental e-scooter in an approved area you must:

- Hold the correct driving licence.
- Have insurance (the rental companies provide this when you hire from them).
- Meet the minimum age limit (this can vary depending on the rental company, so please check with them).

When riding an e-scooter, you should always keep to the speed limit. We also always recommend wearing safety protection such as a helmet.