

**5<sup>th</sup> November 2024**

**Electric Scooters and Electric Assisted Pedal Cycles Information**

Dear Parents and Carers,

I write to remind you of the law linked to electric scooters, as we have seen an increasing number of students using them in school. E-scooters are only allowed to be used by adults over the age of 18, on private land with the landowner's consent, and therefore no student should bring these into school. Electric assisted pedal cycles should only be used by students over the age of 14. I ask that you ensure that students do not use these items on their journeys to and from school or outside of school, to keep everybody within the community safe.

Cheshire Police will be doing some spot checks during this term so please ensure that your child follows these rules.

Cheshire Police have issued the following information so that all of our families are aware of the legalities around their use and the sanctions that can be applied.

**E-scooters**

E-scooters come under the category of "powered transporters". This also covers a range of other personal transport devices which are powered by a motor.

"Powered transporters" fall within the legal definition of a motor vehicle under the Road Traffic Act 1988. "Any mechanically propelled vehicle intended or adapted for use on roads". Therefore, the rules that apply to motor vehicles, also apply to e-scooters.

As a motor vehicle, they must comply with various pieces of Road Traffic Legislation, including but not limited to:

- Driving with a licence
- Driving/Riding with insurance
- Driving/Riding other than on a road
- Vehicle excise

Any person who uses an e-scooter on a public road or other public space, must comply with the relevant Road Traffic Legislation or they face potential prosecution.

**Legal use of an E-scooter**

It is **legal** to use an e-scooter:

- On private land with the permission of the land owner
- During the trial period, it will be legal to use the rental e-scooters within clearly defined zones within the Chester City area

- The E-Scooters will be limited to 12mph within the Chester trial zone. (The legal speed limit is 15.5mph)
- Riders must be 18 years or over
- Helmets are advised but not required
- Riders must have a full or provisional car/motorcycle/moped licence

#### **Enforcement focused on private e-scooters**

Enforcement will be focused on private e-scooters. The most appropriate action for the circumstances will be undertaken, these include:

- Fixed Penalty Notice for no insurance, with a £300 fine and six penalty points and seizure of the vehicle
- Fixed Penalty Notice for no driving licence, up to £100 fine and three/six penalty points
- Youth Divert Scheme (16yrs and under only)

#### **Rider behaviour**

Police will also take action against rider behaviour, whether private or rental. Offences could include:

- Riding on the footway: Fixed Penalty Notice and possible £50 fine
- Using a mobile phone: £300 and six penalty points
- Riding through red lights: Fixed Penalty Notice, £100 fine and possible penalty points
- Drink driving offences: As with driving cars; court imposed fines, driving ban and possible imprisonment
- Drug drive offences
- Riding without Due Care and Attention

#### **Electrically assisted pedal cycles (EAPCs)**


Electrically Assisted Pedal Cycles (EAPC's) can be ridden on the road, cycle path/lanes or anywhere a pedal cycle can be allowed. They do not require a licence, insurance, tax or mot. No legal requirement to wear a helmet. **The rider must be 14 years of age or older on the road – but any age off the road.** Such a bike MUST have pedals to propel it forward (or it wouldn't be a bike within this category).

To fall into the category of EAPC it must show:

1. The power output OR the manufacturer of the motor
2. And MUST have a manufacturers label/sticker with wattage and top speed (usually on a sticker on the frame or on the rear wheel hub)
3. The electric motor **must have a maximum output of 250 watts** and should not be able to propel the bike when travelling more than 15.5mph
4. An EAPC can have more than two wheels
5. An EAPC with a motor which generates **more than 250 watts of power** or motor assistance should be treated as a moped and such would **require a driving licence**, the bike would need to be registered with the DVLA and insurance/helmet would be required.

I would ask that you share this information with your child and for your support in ensuring that all of our young people are safe.

Regards,



Rachel Hudson  
Headteacher