12th Nov 2026

Dear Parent/Carer,

We are writing to ask for your support in keeping children and young people safe and ensuring families understand the law around privately owned electric scooters (e-scooters).
We are increasingly seeing children and young people using privately owned e-scooters to travel to and from school and in other public places.
While e-scooters are widely available to buy, this does not mean they can legally be used in public.

What does the law say?

Privately owned e-scooters cannot legally be ridden on public roads, pavements or in public spaces such as parks. They can only be used on private land with the permission of the landowner. The rules for authorised rental e-scooters are different. Rental e-scooters operating within an official scheme may be used in accordance with the conditions of that scheme.

What could happen?

Using a privately owned e-scooter in public can result in enforcement action. This can include;

- Seizure of e-scooter
- Reporting riders to court
- Reporting parents or guardians where circumstances indicate offences relating to permitting unlawful use
- Potential points on driving licence for those who hold one
- Impact on future driving licence applications and insurance premiums

The financial implications of recovering a seized e-scooter can be significant, with recovery and storage fees often exceeding the value of the scooter itself.

Riders could receive a fine and penalty points, and the e-scooter may be seized by police.

Safety Concerns

Alongside the legal issues, there are serious safety concerns surrounding the use of e-scooters. Many e-scooters are capable of travelling at considerable speeds and hospitals across the UK are reporting increasing numbers of injuries linked to e-scooters. These range from minor cuts and bruises to serious and life-changing trauma. Importantly these injuries not only affect riders. Other children walking to school, pedestrians, and cyclists can also suffer injury.

Our message to parents and carers

With birthdays and Christmas often bringing new bikes, scooters and other forms of transport, we are encouraging parents and carers to think carefully before purchasing an e-scooter for a child or young person.

If you do purchase one, please be clear with your child about where it can legally be used. In particular, children should not be riding privately owned e-scooters to school, as doing so will ordinarily involve riding in a public place.

We are asking schools to help us share this message so that children and families understand the law before enforcement becomes necessary.

Our aim is not to criminalise young people. Our aim is to prevent harm, improve road safety and avoid children and families facing unnecessary consequences because they were unaware of the law.

Thank you for your support in helping us keep children and young people safe.

Best regards,





Sarah Crew QPM
Chief Constable
Avon and Somerset Constabulary

Clare Moody
Police and Crime Commissioner for
Avon and Somerset Constabulary