

website

Streetscene
Hackney Council
Hackney Service Centre
1 Hillman Street
London
E8 1DY

020 8356 6657
andy.cunningham@hackney.gov.uk

Jane Heffernan

PA - Tracy Mortimer

Cardinal Pole Roman Catholic School

205 Morning Lane E9 6LG

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Dear Headteacher

RE: Road Safety and e-scooters

We would like to take this opportunity to raise some points with you regarding safety and legality of the use of privately owned e-scooters.

At the moment the government and consequently Transport for London are running trials of electric scooters (e-scooters) in different areas of the country. Electric scooters are classified as Personal Light Electric Vehicles (PLEVs) and **are subject to all the same legal requirements as other motor vehicles**. Therefore privately owned E- scooters remain under the same legal regulations as motorbikes, though with minor variations brought in by the Department of Transport. These variations are, for the moment, applicable to the e-scooter rental trials whereas privately owned e-scooters still remain illegal to use outside of privately owned land.

Therefore it is against the law to use a privately owned e-scooter on the public highway, cycle paths/lanes and pavements. As mentioned the only place a privately owned e-scooters can be used is on private land and with the permission of the landowner. All e-scooter riders must have a licence and insurance (as per motor vehicle regulations) and this specification is indeed in place for the hire trials being run at the moment amongst other requirements.

If a person does use an e-scooter illegally:



- **they could face a fine**
- **they could get penalty points on your licence**
- **the e-scooter could be impounded**

Privately-owned e-scooters are widely available to buy online and at this moment in time there is no law which prevents the sale of e-scooters, as the obligation of the supplier is merely to provide a road worthy vehicle, which should be used on private land with the private landowners permission. However not all suppliers will provide information around the illegal use of e-scooters and our police force supported by the central government would be required to work towards a more holistic solution.

We have observed that not only adults use e-scooters but we have also noted that children have now been given these vehicles too. This both at primary and secondary school age which, in our opinion, raises all types of different concerns around road and personal safety. If an adult is riding illegally on the public highway and subsequently stopped, they could receive an on-the-spot fine of £300 and consequently six penalty points. Should they be found riding without a licence, then they could be fined up to £1,000 and given points. Should any young adult/child be stopped by the police, as the rider is underage then the fine would be passed on to the child's carer/parent.

Our local Police colleagues have undertaken a number of operations targeting the illegal use of e-scooters in Hackney which has resulted in a number of enforcement interventions. Under the Safer Neighbourhood Team they will continue to focus on hotspots in the borough. The Police schools officers are also in the process of communicating the children and parents to remind them of the law related to the lawful use of e-scooters

We have also worked in partnership on this issue with our MET Police safer transport teams who are also supportive of this initiative and we would like to request your assistance in ensuring this information is given out to all staff & parents. Also please help us understand how we can best support your school and encourage a better form of transport that does not break the law and remains a safer, more sustainable and active way of travelling.

Thank you for your support in this matter.

Yours sincerely,

Sandra Agbabiaka

Principal Officer Road Safety , FCIHT
Public Realm Directorate,
Neighbourhoods and Housing
Hackney Service Centre
London E8 1DY
02083568364 - 0748390911

E-SCOOTERS AND THE LAW

What is the law on e-scooters?

Currently in the UK, you can legally buy an e-scooter, but you cannot ride it on a public road, cycle lane or pavement.

The only place it can be used is on private land.

The reason for this is that e-scooters are treated as motor vehicles by the Department of Transport and are subject to the same legal requirement as other vehicles, such as MOT, licencing, tax and insurance. Because they don't always have number plates, signalling ability or visible rear lights, they cannot be used legally on the roads.

What happens if I am stopped by the police?

The police will advise you on the law and may ask you to take your e-scooter home. They may, however, still penalise you depending on the seriousness of the offence. If caught riding an e-scooter, fines you may receive can include:

- a Fixed Penalty Notice for no insurance, with a £300 fine and six penalty points
- a Fixed Penalty Notice for no driving licence, up to £100 fine and three-six penalty points

Other offences which may result in penalties include riding on the footpath, using a mobile phone, riding through red lights and drink driving offences.

To find out more, visit www.met.police.uk/e-scooters



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