



**Illegal use of an e-Scooter
Letter to all parents and guardians
Operation Solstice**

Headquarters, Springfield,
Chelmsford, Essex CM2 6DA
Telephone 101
Email:

Date: 8th June 2021

Dear Parent/ Guardian,

We are writing to you in relation to a police operation that will commence on the 14th June across the county of Essex. Our officers will be focusing on the unlawful use of e-Scooters with the aim of keeping both users and communities safe from injury.

As you may know, it is currently unlawful to ride an e-Scooter on a public road or pavement. We understand that buying an e-Scooter can be tempting, especially as you can get them from many popular retailers. It can also create confusion as it is legal to buy them but becomes illegal to use them in any public place, road, pavement, or cycle lane. The only place an e-Scooter can be used is on private land. The reason for this is that e-Scooters are treated, in legislation, as motor vehicles and subject to the same legal requirements including:

- MOT
- Drivers Licence (Class Q)
- Road Tax
- Insurance

You may have seen e-Scooters for hire but these are subject to exemptions as they are part of a government trial. These exemptions do not extend to personal e-Scooters.

If your child is found using an e-Scooter in the above circumstances by the Police, the scooter will be seized and every effort will be made to contact you immediately to arrange the return of the scooter and your daughter/son to home or a place of safety.

We would very much seek your support in our approach to safeguarding children and help us to reduce the risk of harm to your child if found using these vehicles unlawfully.

Where a child is found on a second or subsequent occasion, officers will use powers under the Road Traffic Act to seize and destroy the scooter. In some circumstances there may be offences committed by parents of permitting no insurance and permitting no driving licence, so we are very keen to prevent any use of the scooters where traffic offences are being committed.

For further information please visit the Essex Police website and type in 'e-scooter' to the search area. Thank you for your support.