

E-scooters, EAPCs, E-bikes, and Motorcycles

Information for parents & carers



Road safety law is there to protect riders and other road users. In the event of a collision, the physical consequences can be devastating, life-changing and can ultimately result in the loss of life. Make sure that when your children ride on the roads they are doing so legally and safely with protective equipment such as helmets. Visit [THINK! Road safety](#) and [Road safety - Police.uk](#) for more information.

What does the law say?

E-scooters

NOT ROAD LEGAL
for ANYONE to use

It is illegal for ANYONE to ride a private e-scooter on public land – roads, pavements and cycle paths included. In law, they are treated as motor vehicles and, because they have no number plate, often don't have rear lights or signalling ability, **they cannot be used legally in public.**

[Read more here](#) about penalties and offences.

EAPC (electrically-assisted pedal cycle)

ROAD LEGAL
for those aged 14 and over. Helmet use is advised but optional

An EAPC must have pedals meaning that the bike can be used with or without the motor, and the fitted motor must cut off at a top speed of 15.5 mph (the speed of an average pedal cyclist)

[Read more here](#) and [here](#)

Electronically powered motorcycle – “E-bike”

Whether or not these are road legal depends on certain conditions (see below)

To be road legal an E-bike must have :

- A number plate
- Brake lights
- Indicators

An E-bike without these is NOT ROAD LEGAL.

Also, the rider is subject to the same licence requirements as those for a moped/scooter/motorcycle (see column to the right), and they must have insurance.

Mopeds, scooters and motorcycles

ROAD LEGAL
for those aged 16 and over with a motorcycle licence. Helmet use is mandatory

A provisional driving licence is required and compulsory basic training (CBT) must be completed. The age limit will depend on the type of motorcycle – [visit this link for details](#)

What's the difference between a moped and a scooter? Basically, it's all about engine size, but [read more about it here](#)

Why are rented e-scooters road-legal?

- Renters must have at least a provisional driving licence which has [category Q or P/M entitlement](#)
- The rental company provides insurance for the rider as part of the rental agreement
- They must be ridden in approved areas and only on the road

E-scooter schemes in the Northumbria Police area:

There is an e-scooter rental scheme available in Newcastle. Find out more here:
[Neuron Mobility e-scooter hire in Newcastle upon Tyne](#)

Read the following article for tips on how to [protect your motorcycle, moped or scooter from theft](#)