An Garda Síochána
Ag Coinneáil Daoine Sábháilte - Keeping People Safe

Coimisinéir Cúnta
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Dear Principal and Board of Management

I hope this message finds you well. I am writing to inform you of the legislation in relation to the use of electric scooters (e-scooters), scramblers, quad bikes and dirt-bikes by children and young people.

Under the Road Traffic (Electric Scooters) Regulations 2024 as amended by the Road Traffic (Electric Scooters) (Amendment) (No. 2) Regulations, 2026, it is illegal for any person under 18 years of age to use an e-scooter in a public place, including footpaths, cycle lanes, parks, and any other public space frequented by members of the public. This includes their use to and from school if under the age of 18. E-scooters pose a significant risk of injury for younger users and other members our community. We are encountering incidents locally involving children who were unaware they were operating these devices unlawfully.

There are very specific laws in place regarding the use of e-scooters.

E-scooter users must;

- Be 18 years or older.
- Obey a speed limit of 20 Km/h.
- Wear a helmet and high visibility clothing
- Drive on the left-allowed only in cycle lanes or bus lanes and on regional or national roads.

- Have lights, a bell or audible warning device, reflectors, brakes, and it must be in a roadworthy condition.
- Follow the same rules of the road that apply to cyclists.
- Obey signals given by a Garda or School warden.

E-scooter users must not;

- Use footpaths or pedestrianised areas.
- Hold or use a mobile telephone.
- Have a seat on their e-scooter.
- Carry passengers or goods.

I wish to bring to your attention Statutory Instrument No. 199 of 2024 – Road Traffic (Electric Scooter) Regulations 2024 as amended by the Road Traffic (Electric Scooters) (Amendment) Regulations, 2026 and Road Traffic (Electric Scooters) (Amendment) (No. 2) Regulations, 2026, which outlines the obligatory requirements for e-scooters and the liability on the owners. Where a person uses an e-scooter in a public place which does not comply with these regulations, the owner of the e-scooter is committing an offence in respect of the non-compliance, as per Section 11(5)(a) of the Road Traffic Act 1961 (No.24 of 1961).

Additionally, the Road Traffic (Control of Certain Vehicles) Regulations 2026 prohibits the use of an off-road motorcycle (narrow exemptions apply including where such vehicle possesses an identification mark e.g. number plate and certain use on private property) in all places. An off-road motorcycle includes;

- A scrambler
- A motorised quadbike
- A dirt-bike

Gardaí encountering such scramblers/quad bikes/dirt-bikes being used in contravention of these regulations will be assuming a pro-active approach to enforcement including seizure.

I wish to make you aware that Gardaí will and are actively enforcing all legislation pertaining to the use of e-scooters, scramblers, quad bikes and dirt-bikes in your area. Where such vehicles are found to be used by individuals in contravention of legislation, appropriate action will be taken including the seizure of the device as permitted by law. An Garda Siochana remains committed to improving road safety but

we also recognise this cannot be done through enforcement alone. In this regard we will continue to focus on education and prevention throughout schools programmes.

It is requested that you share this information with parents, guardians and students. Education and awareness will help prevent breaches of the law, reduce risk of injury and support a safe school commute for all stakeholders.

I would like to thank you for your continued support and cooperation in promoting school and community safety. Please feel free to contact me or your respective Community Policing Unit for any further assistance and advise.

Yours sincerely,

Donncha Maguire**,** Superintendent