



Magna Academy

Poole

an Aspirations Academy

Principal: Ms N Ullah

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Dear Parent and Carer

RE Students travelling to and from the academy safely

E-scooters

I am aware that there has been a recent increase in the popularity of E-scooters, or electric scooters (two wheeled scooters that are propelled by a motor). Not all riders know that they are classed as powered transport and it is illegal to ride one on public land, this includes roads and pavements. In addition, parents might not have realised the legislation when buying them either.

In the UK, E-scooters are currently classified as Personal Light Electric Vehicles and are treated as motor vehicles. Anyone riding an E-scooter on public land, roads or pavements may find themselves committing an offense under the Road Traffic Act 1988 and, if on the pavement, the Highway Act 1835. The only place to legally ride a privately owned E-scooter is on private land with the owner or occupier's permission. As a result of this the police may seize the E-scooter or issue fines. If your child is using an E-scooter on public land, I strongly advise that you stop them doing so immediately.

The Government has announced locations throughout the UK, including Bournemouth, where trials of an E-scooter rental scheme have started to take place. This allows individuals over the age of 16 years, with a valid provisional driving licence, to hire an E-scooter from an official scheme and ride legally. Privately owned E-scooters are not part of this trial.

As an academy we are very concerned about the safety of pedestrians, other road users and the riders themselves. Please can parents/carers ensure that their child does not use an E-scooter to ride to and from the academy. Any student that does so will have the E-scooter confiscated until we have been able to discuss this with their parents/carers and an agreement reached that they will not use this mode of transport to travel to or from the academy.

Road safety

I wrote to you in March regarding my concerns that a small number of students were not cycling/scooting to the academy safely. There has been a noticeable difference since with the vast majority of students wearing a helmet at all times when they are cycling/scooting to and from the academy. However, please can I ask parents/carers to continue to ensure that their child has and always wears a helmet. We also advise that students regularly have their bikes/scooters serviced to ensure roadworthiness. Reflective clothing and lights are also recommended during the winter months.

I am pleased to report that students have responded well to our requests for them to dismount on their approach to the academy and when leaving at the end of the day. By doing so our students are safely walking their bikes onto and away from the academy site without endangering pedestrians. Please do share our thanks with your child and help us to reinforce this message that the safety and wellbeing of our students and families accessing other local schools is a priority.

Any individual who is seen or reported as being reckless, whilst riding to or from the academy, will have contact made with their parents/carers and a written warning issued. If this behaviour is not corrected then their bike/scooter will be confiscated and their parents/carer will need to collect the bike/scooter from the academy with further disciplinary action being taken for any future reckless behaviour.

All students cycling/scooting to the academy are required to use the designated year group zones within the academy to ensure the safety of their bikes/scooters. The bike/scooter must have a lock as no responsibility can be taken for bikes/scooters that are not locked within the correct academy designated zone. All students are required to disembark from their bikes/scooters prior to entering the academy site and are requested to push their bikes/scooters to the designated parking areas. Under no circumstances should they be ridden on the academy premises.

Finally, we strongly encourage environmentally friendly modes of transport to and from the academy such as walking, cycling and non-motorised scooters. This is yet another example of our students taking action to care for our community.

Thank you once again for your continued support with this matter.

Yours sincerely



Ms N Ullah
Principal