

Dear Parents and Carers,

We are seeing more children using electric bikes, Surrans and off-road style electric motorbikes. Many of these bikes are powerful, fast, and often illegal to ride in public places, which puts young people and others at real risk.

Safety Risks

Due to the fast speed and locations these vehicles are usually ridden in, it causes a risk to not only the riders, but also the general public and in recent years we have seen a sharp rise in serious accidents.

When a Bike Is Illegal

A bike is only classed as a normal pedal cycle if:

- It has working pedals
- The motor is 250 watts or less
- Power cuts out at 15.5 mph

If it goes faster, has more power, or has been modified (“de-restricted”), it becomes a motor vehicle and must be registered, insured, and ridden by someone with the correct licence and safety gear.

Most Surrans and similar bikes cannot be legally ridden on roads, pavements, cycle paths or in parks.

If the police see a bike being ridden without insurance or a licence, being used dangerously or anti-socially in public spaces we will seize these bikes and they will be destroyed.

Across the UK, illegal electric bike seizures have risen sharply, with hundreds taken off the streets for safety reasons.

How you can help protect your children and fellow members of the public

- Check what type of bike your child is using, whether it is legal for public use and where they are riding it. If it is illegal, this can be surrendered to the police or used on private land with the permission of the landowner.
- If you know someone who is using illegal bikes or where these are being stored, please contact the police via the website or report via 101.

This helps keep young people safe and prevents serious injuries, or further consequences.

If you need advice, please contact your local Safer Neighbourhood Team.

Yours sincerely,
Safer Neighbourhoods Team

