

Scooters in School- Guidance

□ Introduction

Many children use scooters at home and during their daily commute. Scooters have health and play benefits allowing children to be more engaged and active. Unfortunately, with increased speeds and variation in abilities, accidents can happen. When children ride with their parents, the responsibility for safety lies with the parents.

As soon as the equipment is owned and operated by the school, either informally or formally, the responsibility shifts to the school and the school becomes liable.

□ What should you consider if you want to have scooters in school?

It is impossible to completely eliminate the risks from scooting so you have to do everything reasonably practicable to reduce those risks as much as possible.

❖ Assess the Risks:

You are more than likely risk assessing most activities already. Scooters are no different and the same principles apply. Once you have identified the risks and control measures, you can decide how best to manage the activity and what procedures are required.

❖ Safety Equipment:

Most manufacturers and safety bodies recommend a helmet certified to the EN1078 standard as the absolute minimum safety equipment that should be worn. This will protect the child's head in the event of a fall. Appropriate footwear is essential and knee pads, elbow pads and wrist protectors are recommended, especially for lower ability riders. If the children will be riding outside of the school, high visibility clothing should be worn.

❖ Training and Supervision:

All staff who will supervise or oversee scooting activities need to be competent to do so, and able to recognise unsafe behaviour, unsafe conditions and location, and faulty equipment through pre-use checks. It is likely that most staff will not have the skills, knowledge or experience required and will need to undergo some form of training e.g., Scootability Instructor Training.

❖ Maintenance:

To comply with The Provision and Use of Work Equipment Regulations (PUWER), you need to ensure equipment is kept maintained and safe. You will either need someone on site, who can maintain and check the equipment in accordance with the manufacturers instructions, or you will need a specialist to do this. The frequency of checking will depend on the type and amount of use.

❖ Storage:

Scooters and safety equipment should be stored safely and securely when not in use to prevent unauthorised use and damage.

❖ Pre-Use Checks:

The area where scooting will take place needs to be checked to ensure it is safe and there are no hazards present e.g., potholes, ice, sharp objects, etc.

The equipment needs to be visually checked to ensure that it doesn't have any damage and is safe and working as expected e.g., handlebars, height and folding adjusters, wheels, brakes, etc.

• Areas to check include;

- ✓ **Handlebars** must not be loose, must have grips, and ends must be covered as they can be sharp.
- ✓ **Bell** should be fitted and should be working
- ✓ **Height adjusters** and quick releases should be tight and working
- ✓ **Folding adjusters** (Folders) Should be clean tight and fully secure to prevent the scooter closing during use
- ✓ **Wheels** should spin freely, tyres should not be significantly worn, be secure and not wobble.
- ✓ **Brakes** must not rub or stick when scooting and should stop the scooter when applied.

