

Welcome to this week's SMRT Safeguarding Update...

# WAKE UP WEDNESDAY

## Road Safety

As students return to SMRT and decide on the best mode of transport to get to school, we wanted to provide you some key safeguarding advice on road safety.

You may have noticed that pick up times at the end of the school day can create a lot of traffic outside the main entrance. To make sure all students are kept safe; please could you consider picking your children up from **Somerset Street** rather than in the tighter one-way system on Somerset Square.

Somerset Street runs alongside the school, is much wider, and can be accessed by students walking a few meters past the nearby basketball court.



This will help to ensure that students are kept safe and roads in the one-way system are not overcrowded. We appreciate your cooperation!

## Electric Scooters

Some of our older students here at SMRT have been asking to travel to school via **electric scooter**. Please see a letter from the Avon and Somerset Police's Head of Road Safety (**included as a separate attachment**), and the government guidance below:

QUESTION	ANSWER
<b>Are electric scooters legal in the UK?</b>	Electric scooters are legal to own in the UK. However, there are lots of restrictions surrounding where they can be used.
<b>Where can you ride electric scooters?</b>	Currently, electric scooters can only be used on private land with the landowner's permission. It is effectively illegal to use them on public roads, on pavements, in cycle lanes and in pedestrian-only areas.
<b>Why are electric scooters illegal on roads and pavements in the UK?</b>	Electric scooters are currently classed as 'powered transporters' by the government and fall under the same laws and regulations that apply to all motor vehicles.  This means that it's illegal to use them on pavements, in cycle lanes and in pedestrian-only areas, and it would only be legal to use them on public roads if they could meet the same requirements as motor vehicles (e.g., in terms of insurance, tax, licence, registration and vehicle construction), which in practice is virtually impossible.  Electric scooter rental trials have been underway in a number of areas across the UK since summer 2020. Local councils have been working with rental providers to test the viability of electric scooters as a safe and effective mode of transport.
<b>When will electric scooters be legal on UK roads and pavements?</b>	In May 2022, plans to fully legalise e-scooters for private use were included in the Queen's Speech. The UK government is working through the details of the regulations required to enable the legalisation of private e-scooters on public land.  Until such time, people should be aware that if they use a private e-scooter illegally, they could face a fine and penalty points on their licence, and the e-scooter could be impounded by the police.  While further details were expected in the King's Speech in 2023, the Government has instead extended trials into 2026 while they work through the details of the regulations that will enable the e-scooter UK law change.

## Hate Speech

Wake up Wednesday continues our theme of addressing hate speech in the wake of the recent Far-Right Riots.

Please read the key information, attached as a separate document (***What Children & Young People Need to Know About Free Speech vs Hate Speech***), and consider discussing the content with your children.

**As always, if you have any immediate concerns about safeguarding issues, students, or the school site, please get in touch via:**

**[safeguarding@smrt.bristol.sch.uk](mailto:safeguarding@smrt.bristol.sch.uk)**