

Safe and considerate **Scooting**

A guide for
parents & carers
of children
under 5 years old



Brighton & Hove
City Council

Scotoring is a fun, healthy and active way to get around.

It helps children develop basic road safety awareness, as well as skills which are essential for cycling, such as balancing, steering and stopping.

Children love to scoot but are not always aware of basic safety rules. Talking to your child about the topics in this leaflet, when out and about, will help them scoot more safely and considerately. Consider your child's age and their understanding when discussing them.

Do you know?

In Brighton and Hove, approximately **6%** of children scoot to their early years setting or primary school (LEA Early Years & School Travel surveys 2015)



Suitable clothing and footwear:

Helmet, knee and elbow pads - we do recommend these, especially if the child is very young and inexperienced. The helmet needs to be the correct size and correctly fitted, according to the instructions.

Bright and reflective clothing - children should ideally wear bright clothing during the day and reflective materials in the dark, as this will help others to see them.

Footwear should be well-fitting and cover the foot, not open-toe. Laces should be tied tightly and not trailing.

Loose and trailing clothing such as scarves can get tangled in the wheels/brake, so be aware of this.

Hats, hoods or badly-fitting helmets – be aware that these can obscure the child's view and can prevent them from hearing

Remind your child to be aware

When crossing the road ask your child to stop at the kerb and get off the scooter. Remind them to wait for you, and to look, listen and think. When it is safe to cross, ask them to push their scooter across the road. Talk to them about how they should always cross with an adult.

In wet weather, remind your child to take care as their scooters are more likely to skid, especially when using the brake and when turning sharply.

of the following:

Driveways are easy to miss, so make sure that your child knows what they are, and how to spot them. Encourage them to stop at driveways, and to look out and listen for vehicles entering or exiting the driveway. Talk to them about what the white light at the rear of vehicles means: that the vehicle is reversing, or about to reverse.

Hazards on the pavement - ask your child to look out for loose debris or gravel as they can cause their scooter to skid or stop suddenly. Also make them aware of hazards such as wheelie bins, trees, lamp-posts, parking meters, tree roots and bumps.

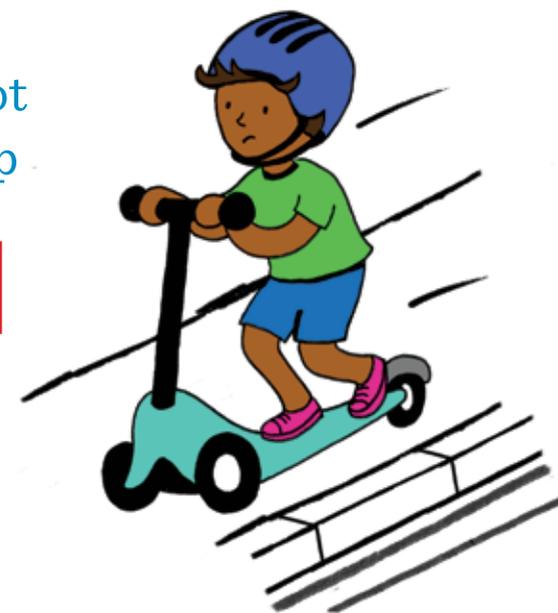
Scooter golden rules



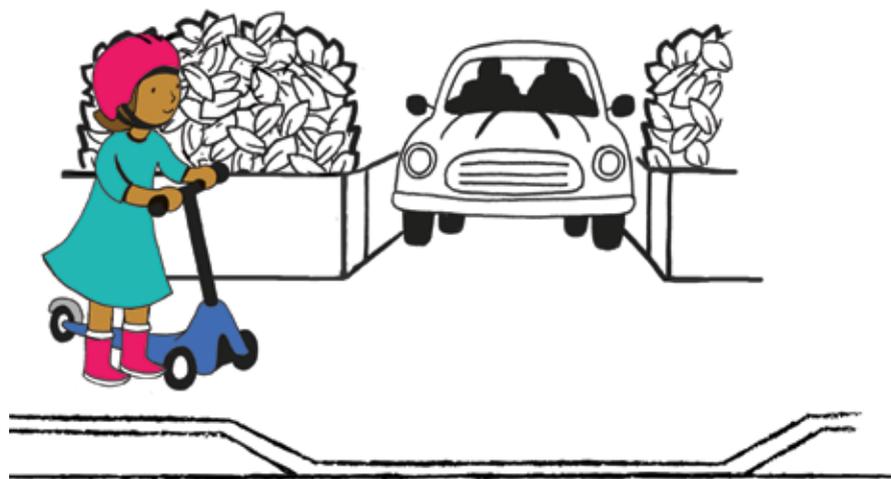
Always stop at kerbs and driveways



Don't scoot down steep hills



Get off your scooter and push to cross the road



Teach your child to be considerate:

Children can easily forget about other people on the pavement. Talk to your child and remind them:

Be aware of other people using the pavement – if it is too crowded, children should slow down, or stop and get off their scooter and push.

Don't scoot too close to pedestrians, especially if they are elderly, very young, visually impaired or vulnerable.

Don't expect pedestrians to move out of the way for children on scooters. If your child is scooting behind other pedestrians, the pedestrians can't always hear them.

Remember to say 'please' and 'thank you' if someone is letting you pass



Skateparks and young children:

Please remember:

- Skateparks are wheeled sports facilities. Younger users must be closely supervised at all times to prevent accidents
- Please always follow the guidance rules of the Skatepark. If you are unsure, watch or ask other users.
- 3-wheeled and plastic scooters are not suitable for the Skatepark environment and can present a hazard to the user. Please ensure your child's scooter is designed for the Skatepark environment.

Scooter safety checks:

Scooters vary depending on the brand and style. Take a few minutes to show your child basic scooter set-up and, depending on their age, get them to help you do the following (making sure you watch carefully in case of trapped fingers):

- Fold and unfold the scooter correctly (this is best done by an adult)
- Check that all nuts, bolts, levers and clips are in the right position and tight
- Check that the wheels are running smoothly
- Set the handlebars so they are approximately at waist height.
- Check that the brake, if there is one, is working

For more information

Contact the School Travel team

01273 292475

road.safety@brighton-hove.gov.uk

Visit the website

www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/schooltravel

www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/early-years-travel