

What's going on this week?

The electric scooters, also known as e-scooters, are now available to rent in selected areas of London as part of a one-year scheme to measure their feasibility. As part of the trial, conducted by TFL (Transport for London) and London councils, the scooters are banned on pavements and limited to 15.5mph. Privately owned e-scooters remain illegal on most roads and cycle lanes due to a law dating back to the 1800s.

Main question:

Should e-scooters be allowed on our roads?

Listen, think, share

- Look at this week's poster. Does anyone know what we can see? They are e-scooters! Parts of London (and other places in the UK) are trialling using e-scooters in public.
- Talk about the difference between toy scooters that we may have at home and e-scooters.
- Read through the information found on the assembly resource, which explains how the new e-scooter trial will work. Using the information, make a list of pros and cons of e-scooters. Overall, do you think e-scooters should be allowed on our roads?
- To use one of the e-scooters on the new trial, you need to have taken an online course and have a driving licence. Why do you think the requirements for renting e-scooters are so high? Do you think they should be?
- Currently, helmets for those using e-scooters aren't a legal requirement as is the case for other means of transport – do you think they should be a legal requirement?
- Watch this week's useful video (link found overleaf), which discusses whether e-scooters are more of a nuisance or a green travel solution. Discuss your thoughts on the role of e-scooters on our roads.

Reflection

New forms of transport are being developed all the time! Some may make our journeys quicker, others may be better for the environment whilst some may come with additional risks. When considering the transport we take, it's important to think of safety first!

KS1 Focus

Question:

What is an e-scooter?

Listen, think, share

- Think about scooters. Have you ridden on one before? Do you have one at school? Do you have your own? Discuss how you use it e.g. standing up, use one foot to scoot along, use the handle bars to change direction.
- Explain that there are some places in the UK that are trialling (testing/trying out) e-scooters. How do you think an e-scooter might be different from the scooters we use? Share that an e-scooter is an electric scooter. We can still use our foot to move us but it also has a motor, so we do not have to!
- Look at resource 1, which shares some more information about e-scooters. Do you know anyone who has used an e-scooter? Would you like to use one?
- Explain that it is recommended that people using an e-scooter wear a helmet, but it is not a legal requirement. This means you wouldn't be breaking the law if you didn't wear one. What do you think about this? Do you wear a helmet when using a bike or a scooter?
- Think about some of the advantages and disadvantages of using an e-scooter to travel instead of a car e.g. environmentally friendly, can pack it away instead of parking, might get wet, can only fit one person on it. What is your favourite method of transport? Why?

Reflection

An e-scooter has a motor and runs using rechargeable batteries. Some places in the UK are trialling the use of e-scooters as a method of transportation.

KS2 Focus

Question:

Who would benefit from using an e-scooter?

Listen, think, share

- Think about e-scooters. Do you know anyone who owns one or has used one? Do you think you would enjoy using one?
- Explain that e-scooters are categorised as 'powered transporters'. The laws that apply to motor vehicles also apply to powered transporters so it can be tricky to have a privately owned e-scooter, that you are able to use on the road.
- Look at resource 2, which shares how some people feel about using an e-scooter. Who do you think feels they will benefit from using the e-scooter? Who doesn't? Can you think of any other people who might benefit?
- Using the comments from resource 2 and any ideas of your own, discuss the benefits of using an e-scooter. Are there any drawbacks? E.g. you can't transport your children.
- Thinking about the impact e-scooters might have on the environment, congestion and journey times, do you think that there is a potential benefit for everyone?
- The trial e-scooters can be used by people with a driving licence (full or provisional) in some places in the UK. Why do you think the e-scooters are being trialled? Do you think it is a good idea to trial the e-scooters in some places before deciding whether they should be used everywhere? Why?

Reflection

There are many people who could potentially benefit from the use of e-scooters. A trial is taking place to help decide if e-scooters should be used in the future.

KS2 Follow-up Ideas

Option 1: Explain that the government has issued some guidance for people using e-scooters such as wear a helmet that is securely fastened and wear light-coloured and fluorescent clothing.

- Discuss why helmets and fluorescent clothing might help to keep people safe.
- Can you think of anything else that might help keep people using e-scooters safe? E.g. lights on the scooter, speed limits.

Ask the children to discuss other aspects of road safety.

- What could you do to keep yourself safe if you were walking around your local area? E.g. bright clothing, use pavements where possible, find a safe place to cross, 'Stop, Look, Listen, Think', walk when crossing, never cross between parked vehicles.

Design a road safety poster to inform and encourage other children in school to keep themselves safe.

Option 2: Ask the children to create a design for their own fleet of e-scooters! Think about:

- What shape will your scooter be?
- Will it have a throttle, brake and start/stop button?
- Will you be able to fold the scooter up?
- What will the handlebars be like?
- What will the wheels be like?
- What patterns, colours or logos will you use?

Ask the children to draw and label a picture of their design and present it to a partner or small group.

KS1 Follow-up Ideas

Option 1: Discuss the different modes of transport we might use to travel to school e.g. walking, cycling, car, bus, scooter.

- How do you travel to school?
- How long does it take you?
- What is your journey like? Is it busy or quiet? What can you see as you travel?

Ask the children to work in pairs or as part of a small group to create their own route around the playground. You can do this using chalk or cones. Think about:

- Where will your route start and finish?
- Will you have any turns or bends? Right or left?
- Are there places you need to speed up or slow down? How will you show this?

Once they have finished, ask others to travel along their route whilst giving instructions such as start here, travel to the red cone, turn left and continue to the blue cone, slow down as you pass the orange cone etc.

Option 2: Ask the children to think about some of the road signs we might see.

- What are they?
- What might they mean?

Explain that they are for all road users, including those using electric scooters. Ask the children to create their own road signs. You could attach them to sticks and use them for the route activity above or as part of a game.



This Week's Useful Websites

This week's news story

www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-48106617

This Week's Useful Videos

E-scooters: Public nuisance or climate-friendly travel?

www.bbc.co.uk/news/av/uk-57385757

This Week's Virtual Assembly

www.picture-news.co.uk/discuss

This Week's Useful Vocabulary

Feasibility – the possibility or likelihood of something being done.

E-scooters are now available to rent in selected areas of London as part of a one-year scheme to measure their *feasibility*.

Illegal – forbidden by law.

Privately owned e-scooters remain *illegal* on most roads.

Limited – having a limit; restricted or confined.

The scooters are banned on pavements and *limited* to 15.5mph.

Nuisance – something causing inconvenience or annoyance.

... if e-scooters are more of a *nuisance* or a green travel solution.

Requirements – a quality or qualification needed in order to be allowed to do something.

Why do you think the *requirements* for renting e-scooters are so high?

Solution – solving a problem or dealing with a difficult situation.

...if e-scooters are more of a nuisance or a green travel *solution*.