

Promoting Scooting

Introduction

Scooting used to be a child's first step to cycling, but now it is a way of getting about and a sporting activity all the way into adulthood.

School Mark criteria

Bronze – C2

Silver – B1, C1, C2, C3

Gold – B1, C1, C3,

Scooting encourages active travel from an early age and develops skills such as steering, stopping and balancing as well as road safety awareness. It's an ideal form of transport; healthy, environmentally friendly and inexpensive.

Scooter parking/storage

Scooter parking makes a big difference in encouraging scooting to school and is relatively affordable and easy to install. There are many scooter racks that are ideal for nurseries and primary schools, specially designed for children to keep their scooters safe and secure. **See Sustrans' information sheet on cycle and scooter parking** for more information.

Park and scoot – for parents who do not feel able to walk, scoot or cycle the whole distance to school, they might consider putting the scooter in the boot of the car or taking it on the bus and then scooting the last section of the journey. Children will then get at least some exercise before school which will significantly increase their concentration levels and learning in class, whilst reducing congestion around the school, making it safer for other people.

Dr Scooter

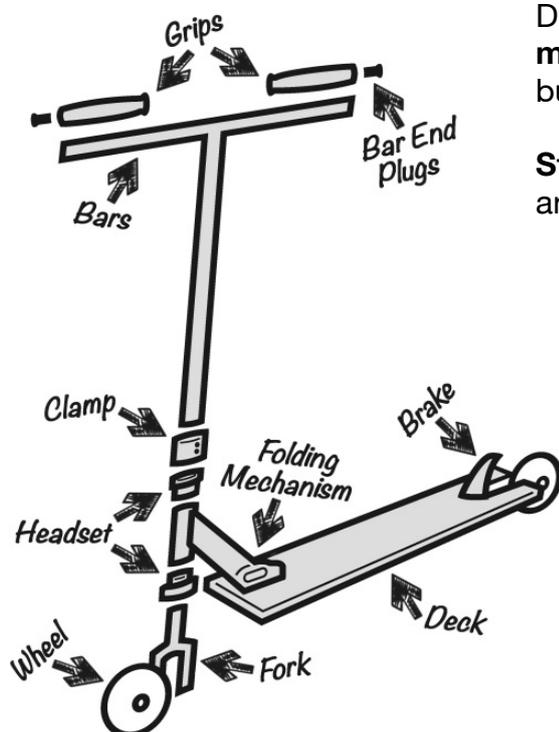
Where possible, **provide opportunities for pupils to get their scooters safety checked by a competent mechanic**. Thanks to their simplicity, you should aim for pupils to be able to maintain their own scooters by providing maintenance training for them.

Scooter safety check

Before using a scooter, it is important to **make sure it's safe to ride by using the 'L' check**. Despite different models and makes, the following diagram gives a guide to the basic parts of a scooter:

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Depending on the manufacturer and model, **you may need different tools to make adjustments**, but for most scooters a 5mm allen-key is used.

Start at the top of the 'L' and work your way down and then along, checking:

- bar end plugs are in place and the grips are in good condition and attached securely
- handlebars turn and are attached securely
- handlebars are fully tightened, so they don't move whilst being ridden
- handlebar height is set around waist height and the clamp holding the handlebars is tight
- headset isn't loose
- folding mechanism is locked in riding position
- all bolts and quick releases are complete and secure
- both wheels spin freely and are attached securely
- brake works
- there are no obvious parts missing or badly damaged.

Skills training

It is important to provide children with the opportunity to learn to handle their scooters competently so that they know how to ride safely and with consideration for others. It is possible that **the local authority in your area may offer scooter skills training**. Speak to your Sustrans contact or get in touch with the council's road safety team to find out about what opportunities are on offer.

If external training is not available then you may wish to organise something yourself. **You will find some useful guidance in this document and in an excellent instructional video** put together by Sustrans and MADD Gear UK – you can access this for free at www.youtube.com/watch?v=FjR2OooGdfw&feature=youtu.be.

Key areas can be grouped as 'basic skills and knowledge' and 'scooting to get about':

Basic skills and knowledge

- Wear appropriate footwear such as trainers. Sandals and flip-flops aren't suitable
- Be careful of baggy clothing that may get caught up in the scooter
- Learn to use two different ways of stopping safely
- Be able to balance, turn and control scooter speed.

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Top tip – when introducing scooter training, **try to get parents involved**, especially those whose children already scoot to school. Adult scooters are available to buy and can legally be ridden on the pavement, allowing parents to accompany their child.

Scooting to get about

Pavement etiquette

- Look out for pedestrians. Be considerate to others and take extra care around elderly people, pushchairs and prams, wheelchair users, younger children, large groups and dog walkers.
- Pass them slowly and even get off and walk if you need to. Saying “excuse me” as you approach somebody and “thank you” as you pass them will be appreciated.

Crossing the road

- As with walking, find a safe place to cross, then STOP, LOOK and LISTEN before crossing
- You can either carry your scooter or you can push it alongside you
- Don't scoot on the road.

Scooting in the rain and dark

- Take extra care when scooting in the wet as the brake won't work so well
- When scooting at dusk or in the dark consider putting flashing lights on your scooter so that others can see you better
- Avoid wearing dark clothing. Brightly coloured and reflective clothing will help you be seen.

How to carry things whilst scooting

- Always make sure you have your schoolbag on your back securely. Don't hang it over your handlebars as it could throw you off balance
- Put your coat, hoodie or other tops in your schoolbag if you are not wearing them.

This resource was produced by Sustrans to support schools to work independently to promote active and sustainable travel. Sustrans is the charity that's enabling people to travel by foot, bike or public transport for more of the journeys we make every day. It's time we all began making smarter travel choices. Make your move and support Sustrans today.

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