



Operation Brookdale

School Briefing Sheet

Motorcycles and quad bikes can be a lot of fun and great hobby for riders. But ridden illegally and irresponsibly they can be a nuisance or cause accidents resulting in serious injuries and death to passers-by and riders.

In response to growing public concern and an increase in the number of bikes being ridden illegally in our region, Merseyside Police is undertaking a six-week operation targeting off road bikes.

Starting on **8 July 2013**, the force-wide operation will crack down on irresponsible owners and riders. It will see us taking positive action to tackle the illegal use of motorcycles and quad bikes to reduce anti-social behaviour.

Despite their growing popularity, many young people and their parents are unaware of the law and legal responsibilities which apply to the ownership and riding of these vehicles, but ignorance of the law is no excuse and is not a defence, so it's important that you understand the legal requirements for owning and riding motorcycles and quad bikes.

What type of bikes are we talking about?

All bikes including quad bikes, scrambler bikes, monkey bikes, scooters, mini motors and go peds powered by either an engine or electric motor.

Bikes not manufactured or adapted for use on the road can only be used on private land, with the landowner's permission or an authorised course or track.

To ride a bike on the road it must be built for road use. The rider must be over 16 years and will need registration documents, MOT, insurance, a license and a helmet.

It is illegal to ride motorcycles or quad bikes on any public spaces. This includes parks, pavements, waste grounds or parkways.

Remember it is your duty to ride legally and responsibly. The consequences of riding one of these vehicles inappropriately could result in:

- Having your bike seized
- Points on your driving license
- A heavy fine
- Disqualification
- Imprisonment
- An Anti-Social Behaviour Order (ASBO)
- Serious injury or death

Please Note

Merseyside Police is aware that the majority of young people's behaviour is acceptable throughout Merseyside and it is only the actions of a small minority that causes upset within the community.

Thinking of buying a motorcycle or quad bike?

Check the bike has a visible identification number on the frame and an engine number; if you intend to use it on the road it must also have a registration plate.

Get proof of purchase from the seller

Always transport your bike to a legitimate riding area in a van or trailer

Protect yourself from injury by wearing full protective clothing at all times and a helmet that fits correctly and is securely fastened.

Look into organised motorbike groups in your local area. Contact the Auto-cycle Union for a full list of events and venues near you www.acu.org.uk

Think about how your actions can affect others

Be aware of your actions. Motorcycles and quad bikes can be a noisy nuisance and be distressing to people and animals as well as causing serious injuries in accidents. If you have elderly relatives or pets think about how you would feel if they felt frightened or intimidated by noisy bikes speeding towards and past them in parks or on pavements.

Your support is important

Merseyside Police is committed to tackling the anti-social and illegal use of motorcycles and quad bikes.

If you have information about the illegal or anti-social use of these machines please call Merseyside Police on 101 and ask for your local Neighbourhood Team. In an emergency always call 999.

You can also provide information anonymously by calling Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

For information on the legislation surrounding the ownership and use of motorcycles and quad bikes please visit www.merseyside.police.uk

If you own or ride a motorcycle or quad bike have fun and be safe, but remember the law and your legal responsibilities.

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