

OpenVoiceNews U.K.

Transparent. Unbiased. Yours.

Police Warn Parents After Child Caught Riding Motorbike on Busy Sheffield Road

July 20, 2025

— Categories: Crime



A 12-year-old child was caught illegally riding a motorbike on a busy road in Sheffield, prompting police to issue a public warning to parents over the dangers of powered bikes being misused in public spaces.

The incident occurred on Thursday, July 18, when officers from the Sheffield South East Neighbourhood Policing Team (NPT) seized a powered bicycle from the young rider. The motorbike-style vehicle was being operated on a well-used public road, a clear breach of road traffic laws given the rider's age and the nature of the bike.

These types of bikes, often resembling electric off-road motorcycles, cannot be legally used on public highways, pavements, or open spaces without proper documentation, insurance, and appropriate age and license requirements. Under U.K. law, they are treated similarly to motor vehicles and must adhere to strict usage guidelines.

Rising Risk

Following the seizure, the NPT issued a public safety message via its official Facebook page, expressing concern over the increasing number of similar incidents. “Yesterday, this bicycle was seized from a 12-year-old child who was riding it on a busy road,” the statement read. Please be reminded that it is illegal for such bikes to be operated on roads, public land, or footpaths.”

The team acknowledged that children often receive these vehicles as gifts, but stressed that the child’s and others’ safety must take priority. Officers warned that the consequences could be devastating without proper control and awareness. “The potential consequences of reckless behaviour could lead to us having to take your loved one to the hospital with serious injury or worse,” the statement continued.

While officers emphasised they did not take action lightly, they also made it clear that the law must be enforced to avoid tragedy. They urged parents to think carefully before allowing children to ride these bikes unsupervised or in areas where they are prohibited.

The warning comes as powered bikes and electric scooters become increasingly popular and accessible through online shops and social media marketplaces. Police across South Yorkshire and other parts of the country have been clamping down on their illegal use, particularly by underage riders or those operating them in public without licences or insurance.

Efforts to address this issue have included increased patrols, community awareness campaigns, and regular seizure of vehicles being ridden unlawfully. With the school summer holidays now in full swing, officers are particularly keen to reduce risks among young people, who may be more likely to use these vehicles while out of school.

South Yorkshire Police continue to urge residents to report sightings of illegal riding activity and to speak to children about the dangers involved. Anyone with concerns is encouraged to contact the police via 101 or report anonymously through Crimestoppers.

