



SAFER

SCHOOLS



December 2021

Christmas is nearly here! Please enjoy reading our December newsletter which highlights key messages and advice for you and your family to remain safe during this exciting month of festive cheer! Parents and Carers are reminded that this newsletter is for **both** Primary and Secondary school children, and therefore trust your judgement to share what you feel is relevant information for your family.



Don't ask Santa for an e-scooter

We understand that buying an e-scooter can be tempting, especially as you can get them from many popular retailers.

However, the current law is clear

You can buy one but you can't ride it on a UK public road, cycle lane or pavement. The only place an e-scooter can be used is on private land.

Why is this?

E-scooters are classified as Personal Light Electric Vehicles (PLEVs), so they are treated as motor vehicles and subject to the same legal requirements.

All details can be found on the following Government website:
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/powered-transporters/information-sheet-guidance-on-powered-transporters>

What happens if I've been stopped by Police?

The Police will advise you of the current law about how to use an e-scooter legally and ask you to take your e-scooter home. They may however still penalise you depending on the nature and gravity of the offence.

We understand the public's support for environmentally friendly modes of transport. We want to work with the public to make sure the roads are safe for everyone.

The UK Government is currently taking part in 'Future Transport Zone' trials for e-scooter hire, with a view to making them legal to use on the roads.

Check out the [gov.uk](https://www.gov.uk) website or enquire with your local authority for a trial closest to you.

Christmas message

Cambridgeshire police wish you all a safe & happy Christmas. We look forward to welcoming you back in 2022

Merry Christmas!!



Call: 101
Telephone: 18001 101
Visit: [cambs.police.uk](https://www.cambs.police.uk)
Follow: CambsCops
Subscribe: [eCops.org.uk](https://www.ecops.org.uk)

#SaferCambs



Creating a safer
Cambridgeshire



Weapons taken off of our streets!



More than **50** weapons including swords, knuckle dusters and batons were handed into police last month as part of an amnesty. The amnesty allowed people to hand in knives and recently banned weapons to police without fear of prosecution. The 56 items handed in included 34 knives and 14 swords.

In July this year the **Offensive Weapons Act** was updated, making items such as knuckledusters, telescopic truncheons, curved swords and zombie knives illegal to own even if kept on private property. Previously, weapons such as these were only illegal when carried in public.

The amnesty formed part of the national **'Operation Sceptre'** week of action. A broad range of policing activity took place during the week, including a heightened police presence in 'hotspot' areas, targeting people who are believed to carry weapons, engagement with schools and working with retailers who sell knives, as well as completing test purchases. The week was supported by officers, Specials and police cadets. The week-long initiative was part of 'Operation Guardian' – the Constabulary's ongoing strategy to combat knife crime in the county.

Possession of an article with a blade or point offences decreased by 17% in Cambridgeshire in 2020/21 compared to figures for the previous financial year. Where knives are concerned, it is illegal to:

- sell a knife of any kind to anyone under 18 years old.
- carry a knife in public without good reason - unless it's a knife with a folding blade 3 inches long (7.62 cm) or less, e.g. a Swiss Army knife
- carry, buy or sell any type of banned knife
- use any knife in a threatening way (even a legal knife, such as a Swiss Army knife)

The maximum penalty for an adult carrying a knife is four years in prison and a fine of £5,000.

Inspector Matt Snow said: "I'd like to thank everyone who handed in weapons to us last week. By doing so you have helped to make our communities safer. "We wanted to give people an opportunity to hand in weapons that have now been made illegal to own. I'm pleased people have taken that opportunity and that these items will now be disposed of safely. This week of action was all part of our ongoing efforts to tackle crime involving weapons in the county as we aim to make Cambridgeshire an even safer place."

11 The 12 Frauds of Christmas Charity fraud #12Frauds

- Are you donating to a charity this Christmas? Make sure the charity is genuine before giving any personal or financial information.
- Always check the charity name and registration number at: gov.uk/checkcharity
- Check if a charity is committed to good fundraising practice by looking out for the Fundraising Badge and checking: fundraisingregulator.org.uk/directory

FR FUNDRAISING REGULATOR Action Fraud CHARITY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND AND WALES



DISCORD: What parents & carers need to know!

The following information has been sourced from National Online Safety, who believe in empowering parents/carers with information and advice to raise awareness about online safety for children and young people. Discord is one of the most popular communication tools for gamers and has over 14 million daily users. It allows the user to create or join what are known as 'servers', where different users can talk in groups via text message or voice call. There is also the option to send direct message and make video calls.

There following is a useful guide for your awareness, which highlights some of the downsides of discord. Further information can be found by visiting www.nationalonlinesafety.com

HIDDEN CHARGES

Though the basic platform is free, your child will be encouraged to sign up to premium subscriptions, which give extra perks, such as animated emojis and free games. The two options are known as 'Nitro Classic' (which costs \$4.99 a month) and Nitro (which costs \$9.99 a month). Prices are only converted to pound sterling during the payment process.



RISK OF CYBERCRIME

Cybercriminal groups have been linked to the platform due to reports of hackers sharing stolen data. It's also possible that your child may be encouraged to share the data of their friends, either through peer pressure, or 'for fun', without realising the consequences.



STRANGER DANGER

To create an account, you only need to display a username and profile image. This makes it easy for someone to hide his or her real identity. Predators from anywhere in the world can join a chat server, message your child and quickly leave to avoid detection. Forbes reports groomers have been targeting children susceptible to online coercion on the platform.



INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

Your child can access almost any chat server on Discord. This means they can easily be exposed to content and conversations that are inappropriate, upsetting or potentially harmful.



SEXUAL IMAGERY

Despite there being guidelines in place to prevent it, users are able to circulate adult content. This can include sexualised images, pornographic videos and provocative discussions. It's important to stay alert and know the risks that your child could be exposed to.



RISK OF CYBERBULLYING

Interactions on the platform are largely unregulated. This means other users can easily say and show things to your child that might be offensive and upsetting. The competitive nature of gaming can lead users to make abusive and harmful remarks about your child.



Becoming a police officer

A great career, welcoming diversity

There's never been a better time to become a police officer. It's a great career where every day is different and you get to make a difference. From neighbourhoods, to dogs, road policing and major crime, there's exceptional variety and opportunities. We're also committed to recruiting a workforce that reflects the communities we serve, so we're particularly keen to hear from you if you're female or from an ethnic minority background.

Degree apprenticeship

Become a police officer. Earn while you learn. A fully funded degree. Sound good? That's what we're offering in our Police Constable Degree Apprenticeship (PCDA). You will earn as you study for a degree in professional policing practice and receive on-the-job training. If you do not have A-levels, then certain career experience and time as a Special can be used instead.

Scan me!



bit.ly/3DDZ1ww

Visit our website on

www.cambs.police.uk

Special Constable

Special constables come from all walks of life and volunteer a minimum of 16 hours a month to their local police areas. They provide a link between the police and the community and are sworn in by a magistrate in the same manner as a regular police officer. They work alongside their regular colleagues, wear the same uniform and have the same powers in law, including the power of arrest.