

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

If your child is under 18 and is stopped by the police for illegal riding, they may be fined and have points put on their future driving licence.

Before agreeing to let your child ride an off-road vehicle it is important to consider the high risk of injury that may be involved. Research into the most recently published data show that in 2002 there were an estimated 29,399 accidents involving riders of off-road vehicles which were recorded at accident and emergency rooms across the UK. This is a 41% increase on the number of accidents in 2001.

Buying a bike?

If you are thinking about buying a bike for your child there are a few important things you need to know.

Always check when buying a bike that there is a visible identification number on the frame and an engine number. The seller will be able to point these out and provide a proof of purchase. The bike manufacturer will be able to describe what the number should look like on their product. Contact them for more details. The number may have been defaced on a stolen bike, so always check!

If you want to buy a bike be prepared for some costs:

Quad and motocross bikes start from around £700 new and £450 second hand to buy; Protective clothing can cost between £100-£300 with a helmet an additional £90-£250; You will also need a trailer to transport the bike to the riding site. If you do not own one they can cost £250-£500 or more, with an extra £60 plus fitting cost for a tow bar if your car does not currently have one. **These costs could total between £950 and £1,800.**

Based on our study of 80 tracks around the UK the average daily cost to ride is £14.50 for a child and £15.50 for an adult. Some tracks have additional membership schemes of £20 a year on top.



Off-Road Vehicles include:

Moto Cross, trial and enduro bikes; quadbikes; electric scooters; buzzboards and gopeds; and any other mechanically propelled vehicle which is used off-road and should not be used on public roads and pavements or in public spaces.

MAKE SURE YOUR CHILD DOESN'T RIDE ILLEGALLY. FOLLOW THESE GUIDELINES

If you want to ride, make sure you follow these guidelines to ensure you ride legally:

- You Must Not: Ride on public land, parks, pavements and pathways
- You Must Not: Ride unlicensed bikes on public roads
- You Must: Always use a van or trailer to transport the off-road vehicle to the legitimate riding area.

There are few legitimate riding areas in Greater Manchester

If you would like more information on how to ride legally please contact the Auto-cycle Union who are the governing body for the sport. They will be able to provide you with details of regional venues and latest news:

Auto-cycle Union Ltd
ACU House, Wood Street
Rugby, Warwickshire, CV21 2YX

Tel: 01788 566 400

Email: admin@acu.org.uk

Web: www.acu.org.uk