

Dad's anger as son's bike stolen from South Shields school



David Cook and son David have been left upset after son's David's £600 bike was stolen from Harton Technology School

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A FATHER has hit out at the response by teachers and police after his son's £600 bike was stolen from outside his class.

Year 11 student David Cook locked his Carrera Kraken cycle outside the Wellness Centre in Harton Technology College's grounds while he was in lessons, but found it had been taken when he finished for the day.

While the 15-year-old has been left upset about the loss of the white bike, bought as a Christmas present, his father is furious by what he says has been an inadequate reaction by police and the school.

Mr Cook, a mental health worker, said: "When he phoned me to say his bike had been stolen, he said the first thing the school asked was whether it was insured.

"The school has CCTV cameras but they don't monitor it so anybody can walk into the school.

"There was no empathy from them. I've also called the school to ask to speak to the teacher three times and I'm not going to back down."

Mr Woods said he was also annoyed when the school initially refused to allow him the chance to see the CCTV of the theft – which shows two men in hooded tops take the bicycle – but was later given access to the footage.

He said a police officer, who was on the grounds when Mr Wood went to the school to discuss the issue, said she would take up the investigation, but explained it would be two days before she could look into it because of rest days.

The father-of-two added: “I’ve got no faith in the police. By the time she looked into it, the bike wouldn’t be seen for dust. It’ll have been sold on.

“This was a Christmas present and David’s been very upset, which is understandable, and blames himself.

“He locked it up, there’s nothing else he could do.”

Chris Braybrook, head of school, said: “The school is working very closely with the police in connection with this issue.”

A spokesman for Northumbria Police added: “We always endeavour to carry out inquiries into reports of crime made to police in a timely and thorough manner and officers agree with the victim how often they would like to be updated with progress into the investigation.


“A number of inquiries have been carried out into the theft, including speaking to potential witnesses and viewing CCTV.

“Our inquiries will continue and we would urge anyone with information to get in contact.

“If anyone is concerned about the progress of an investigation, we would urge them to contact us to discuss these concerns.

“Officers carry out regular patrols in the area to deter thieves, and we actively target those we believe to be responsible.”

Three other bikes have been stolen from the school’s grounds this year, with all taken in January, and an arrest has been made as part of that investigation.

Anyone with information about the latest theft, which happened at 2pm on Monday, October 13, can call police on 101 ext 69191 or Crimestoppers anonymously on 08000 555 111  08000 555 111.

Comments

Ohplease

4:25 PM on 27/10/2014

He's "got no faith in the police"?

Is the officer who is the main investigator in the case supposed to work 24/7 until the bikes found?

He's the one who bought a 15 year old a £600 push bike, no way on earth I'd ever spend that sort of money for anything for a child, he's lucky he hasn't had it taken off him and given a good hiding while he was using it.

sanddancer

3:41 PM on 27/10/2014

Personally I find it more alarming that two men in hooded tops can wander round a schools grounds and go unchallenged.

Ellerman

3:35 PM on 27/10/2014

Mr Woods? Who is Mr Woods? Maybe he's the thief!

And the poor teachers are blamed again! Since when has teaching involved the supervision of bikes and accountability for the loss of bikes? Don't think that's on the teacher training programme.

geordie52

10:58 AM on 27/10/2014

shields ?,.....nowt new

get an old bike ..take the brakes off ..no mudguards ..maybe spray it black

rest it against a lampost ..anywhere in shields ..should be okay ?

Banished

10:34 AM on 27/10/2014

I wonder, could they (the pair in the hooded tops) be members of the "spared jail" brigade?

Cobbler

9:36 AM on 27/10/2014

'He locked it up, there's nothing else he could do.'

Wrong.

He could have left the bike, safely locked away, at home.

Cobbler

9:33 AM on 27/10/2014

'Right. Can you both do 'upset'?

Rrrrrright...(At least they didn't fold their arms, I suppose).