

Digital Safety at home:

parents and carers newsletter

May 2022

Welcome to the fifth edition of the Digital Safeguarding newsletter from the safeguarding team at Stowmarket High School!

This half term we are looking at CEOP, a term that is used a lot when discussing Online Safety but do we all understand what this organisation does and how does it help our children?

Designated Safeguarding Lead: Mr McLellan Online Safety Lead: Mrs Cogan

Click the CEOP Button

This is something that is said so frequently when teaching Online Safety, whether this is in assemblies, in a classroom or through interactive online tools. Our children will most likely recognise the symbol but do they actually know what CEOP does?

CEOP is actually a branch of the National Crime Agency and they work closely with a whole host of child protection teams to protect children and young people from online child sexual abuse. This isn't always a topic that is easy to discuss with your child but it's important that they know where they can turn if something happens.

CEOP has recently launched a new online help centre to assist young people in finding answers to their questions. This covers everything from if something has actually happened, or if they are just curious about the whole process. The site for 11-18 year olds can be found here.

This online centre contains lots of useful information on a range of topics from relationships to socialising online.

Each area has a breakdown of what it is, what the law says, why people do it and how they can be supported. One example of this is if a young person is receiving unwanted sexual material. Everything is clearly stepped out and easy to read for all ages.

Steps you can take to help keep your child safer online

Have an ongoing conversation: Continue to talk about the apps, games and sites they like to use or may come across, and what they like and don't like and any concerns about being online. Discuss with them when to unfollow, block or report. For help starting this conversation, read having a conversation with your child.

Make sure they know where to go for support: Remind your child they can always speak to you or an adult they trust if anything happens online that makes them feel worried or upset. Remind them that they won't be in trouble at that you are there to help. At school, your child can speak to a teacher they trust such as their form tutor, or their head of year, or another member of staff they feel comfortable with. For a breakdown of report services, visit: Supporting your child with reporting unwanted content online

Make sure they know about NCA CEOP: Young people can report a concern about grooming or sexual abuse to NCA CEOP at https://www.ceop.police.uk/safety-centre/ and get support from a specialist Child Protection Advisor.