

Child Exploitation and Online Protection (CEOP) Centre

At Harwich and Dovercourt High School we educate and protect our students in their use of ICT and the internet. We aim to constantly reinforce the responsibilities that our students have when surfing the web through ICT lessons, PSHE lessons and Community Assemblies.

Within school, filtered internet usage is monitored.

Obviously, we can only provide these safeguards within school – it is equally important that students are encouraged to use the internet safely and responsibly on mobile devices and outside of school.

It is vital that parents and carers also keep abreast of the latest developments in technology that now present our children with new dangers.

“The risks that children face may have changed but basic parenting skills remain the same” is the central message from the UK’s national centre for child protection – the Child Exploitation and Online Protection (CEOP) Centre.

The use of online social networking sites is increasing, it is vital to remember that while the internet is a great resource, it is unfortunately open to abuse. As technology moves forward so do the criminals and risks can appear where they have not been before.

CEOP commissioned a MORI poll that showed around 80% of UK children aged between 5-15 years are regularly online everyday, while OFCOM findings for the same age group reveals that 61% of parents had failed to set adequate online controls or didn’t have filters in place to keep their children safe. (For more information about protecting your computer, identity and your children on-line go to '[Get Safe Online](#)').

Parents' fear of understanding technology still seems to be a major obstacle so the Centre has gone back to the 50's with newly styled material that encourages parents to take their parenting skills into the online world.

The centre-piece is a new online show – "[The Parents' and Carers' Guide to the Internet](#)" - takes a light hearted but thought provoking look at internet safety from a parental point of view. It provides practical advice on what children may be doing online, covers issues that are sometimes hard to discuss and helps parents talk to their child about online worlds that for the child are often very private and vitally integral to their lives.

You may also find it useful to view the BBC Panorama programme on internet safety entitled '[One Click from Danger](#)' and the follow up programme '[One Click from Capture](#)'