

The CEOP Ambassador Course and its impact at Whale Hill

The Child Exploitation Online Prevention (CEOP) command is a branch of the National Crime Agency that works to combat the dangers that children and young people encounter online. They work in partnership with a range of other agencies such as the police in order to safeguard children that are vulnerable to the various risks that are present on the internet. They also develop resources for parents and schools to use when trying to develop children's understanding on specific issues such as keeping personal information safe and avoiding contact that could result in abuse.

The main reason that the CEOP command exists is that the rapid development of technology in recent years has brought with it a previously non-existent safeguarding threat to children. CEOP not only acknowledges and attempts to tackle this but undertakes research into how children and young people are using technology and the internet in order to be more informed about how they can make a positive impact.

The CEOP Ambassador Course training is offered to those working with children in order to improve their knowledge of the risks to children and how these can be tackled effectively. There are approximately 7000 ambassadors, each of whom can then train other professionals. The training highlights a number of key factors to consider when providing safeguarding provision. Perhaps the most important of these that can easily be overlooked is considering the reasons that children use the internet. By understanding the motivation behind internet use, parents, carers and teachers are better placed to work with children and provide specific, tailored resources and advice.

At Whale Hill, Online Safety is a key aspect of the Computing curriculum and modules are carefully planned and tailored to each year group. We are aware that many of our children are active online, including on a range of social media platforms, and that the experiences in 'real life' and life online are becoming increasingly intertwined. As a result, resources and activities are planned to ensure the maximum positive impact possible on the choices that our children are making online and to enable them to be safe and responsible digital citizens.

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