



### WHO TO CONTACT IF YOU HAVE A CONCERN ABOUT A CHILD

If you are worried about a child's safety, please do not hesitate to contact the Designated Safeguarding Lead or Deputies straightaway.

Bedford Borough Integrated Front Door  
(children's social services) 01234 718700  
Out of hours – 0300 3008123

If a child is in immediate danger, call the  
Police on 999

#### Meet the Designated Safeguarding Team:

The Safeguarding Team oversee and coordinate all aspects of the school's work to ensure that children are kept safe.

[safeguarding@goldington.beds.sch.uk](mailto:safeguarding@goldington.beds.sch.uk)

**Designated Safeguarding Lead  
Head of Year Nine:**  
Mr Will Atkinson

[atkinsonw@goldington.beds.sch.uk](mailto:atkinsonw@goldington.beds.sch.uk)

**Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead  
Head of Year Seven:**

Mrs Anthea Jones

[jonesa@goldington.beds.sch.uk](mailto:jonesa@goldington.beds.sch.uk)

**School Safeguarding Governor:**

Mrs Kate Reynier

[reynierk@goldington.beds.sch.uk](mailto:reynierk@goldington.beds.sch.uk)

**Special Educational Needs Coordinator:**

Mr Sailesh Roopnarain

[roopnarains@goldington.beds.sch.uk](mailto:roopnarains@goldington.beds.sch.uk)

**Head of Year Eight:**

Mr Michael Lincoln

[lincolnm@goldington.beds.sch.uk](mailto:lincolnm@goldington.beds.sch.uk)

**Head of Year Ten:**

Mr James Pinkney

[pinkneyj@goldington.beds.sch.uk](mailto:pinkneyj@goldington.beds.sch.uk)

**Head of Year Eleven:**

Mr Liam Hall

[halll@goldington.beds.sch.uk](mailto:halll@goldington.beds.sch.uk)

All can be contacted via the school office  
or on 01234 261516

For a copy of our school's Child  
Protection Policy, please visit the  
Safeguarding page on our [school website](#)

Dear Parents/Carers

Welcome to the sixteenth edition of the newsletter from the Goldington Academy Safeguarding Team. Our aim is to bring you all the latest, relevant help and advice on issues that we feel will be of importance to you. In this issue, the main focus is on **Neglect** and the risks of **vaping synthetic cannabinoids**. Goldington Academy staff are trained to spot neglect and the risks of drug use are covered through the Life Skills curriculum and assembly programme.

Safeguarding children is everybody's responsibility. If you have concerns about the safety or welfare of any child, please do not hesitate to speak to a member of staff.

We hope that you will find the information in this newsletter useful. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you require any further information or support with any of the topics raised.

Yours sincerely

Mr W Atkinson  
**Assistant Headteacher  
Designated Safeguarding Lead**

### Neglect

Neglect can be difficult to spot, but unfortunately is a common form of child abuse. Neglect may include the following:

- **Physical neglect** – of a child's basic needs. Food, shelter, hygiene are not accessible.
- **Educational neglect** – a child doesn't get the education they are entitled to.
- **Emotional neglect** – a child doesn't get the nurture and stimulation they need. This could be through ignoring them, isolating them or through intimidation.
- **Medical neglect** – of proper health care needs. This may include dental care or refusing the recommendations of medical professionals.

Signs and indicators may include:

- Poor appearance and personal hygiene
- Health and developmental problems
- Housing and family issues
- Changes in a child's behaviour

Any child could suffer neglect. However, some children are more at risk than others e.g. those born prematurely, children with disabilities, children who are in care.

For more information, please visit [Neglect is also Child Abuse: Know All About It | NSPCC](#)

## Vaping synthetic cannabinoids

It is unfortunate that some young people have become involved with vaping. Data from ASH indicates that around 20% of young people say they have tried vaping.

Worryingly, there are increasing numbers of young people who are using vapes supplied with illegal drugs, such as THC oil or Spice. Synthetic cannabinoids such as Spice inhaled through vapes were known to cause at least 68 deaths in the US last year, and are known to cause fatalities from only one hit of the drug.

Side effects of synthetic cannabinoids may include:

- Inability to move
- Dizziness
- Breathing difficulties
- Chest pain
- Seizures
- Extreme anxiety
- Paranoia
- Suicidal thoughts
- Psychosis

For more information, please visit: [Synthetic cannabinoids \(Spice\) | NHS inform](#)

## Top Tips for Managing Screen Time | Free Online Safety Guide (nationalcollege.com)

From using them for communication, work, shopping and entertainment, devices such as smartphones, laptops and the rest are now deeply ingrained into modern society. Small wonder, then, that young people – who have grown up surrounded by such gadgets, can sometimes struggle to put them down, switch them off or keep themselves occupied without them.

While limiting our screen time may require a great deal of restraint, the effort can be rewarded with significant benefits to our physical and mental health. Our #WakeUpWednesday guide has simple tips for helping to manage the amount of screen time in your household, encouraging the whole family to spend more quality time together and live in the moment.

<http://nationalonlinesafety.com/enrol/goldington-academy>

Once you have registered, you will be able to access the “Online Safety for Parents and Carers” course and National Online Safety’s Resources (which includes a wide range of online platform guides on the latest social media channels and games). This aims to help empower parents with the knowledge to protect their children from the dangers of the internet.

## Early Help Service

The Early Help service is made up of six Early Help professionals who support schools to co-ordinate early help for pupils and their families. The Early Help service includes the following teams:

- Adolescent response team
- Early Help Hub
- Education Welfare
- Family Information Service
- Family Support Hub
- Inclusion Support
- Parenting Team
- Strengthening Families Team

For further information, please visit [Early Help Assessment - Overview | Bedford Borough Council](#) or speak to any member of the school’s safeguarding team.