



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.

**Designated Safeguarding Lead
Head of Year Nine:**

Mr Will Atkinson
atkinsonw@goldington.beds.sch.uk

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

Mrs Anthea Jones
jonesa@goldington.beds.sch.uk

School Safeguarding Governor:

Mrs Kate Reynier
reynierk@goldington.beds.sch.uk

Special Educational Needs Coordinator:

Mr Sailesh Roopnarain
roopnarains@goldington.beds.sch.uk

Head of Year Eight:

Mr Michael Lincoln
lincolnm@goldington.beds.sch.uk

Head of Year Ten:

Mr James Pinkney
pinkneyj@goldington.beds.sch.uk

Head of Year Eleven:

Mr Liam Hall
hall@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 ninth 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 **child-on-child sexual abuse** and **radicalisation and extremism**. We cover both of these areas extensively with our pupils through the curriculum, in particular through Life Skills and assemblies. Staff are trained to spot the signs of and report both issues.

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**

Child-on-Child sexual abuse

In June 2021, Ofsted carried out a rapid review into child-on-child sexual abuse in schools. The review included visits to 32 schools and colleges. In these, Ofsted spoke to over 900 children and young people about the prevalence of child-on-child sexual harassment and sexual violence, including online.

The findings were as follows: *girls told us that sexual harassment and online sexual abuse, such as being sent unsolicited explicit sexual material and being pressured to send nude pictures ('nudes'), are much more prevalent than adults realise. For example, nearly 90% of girls and nearly 50% of boys, said being sent explicit pictures or videos of things they did not want to see happens a lot or sometimes to them or their peers. Children and young people told us that sexual harassment occurs so frequently that it has become 'commonplace'. For example, 92% of girls and 74% of boys, said sexist name-calling happens a lot or sometimes to them or their peers. The frequency of these harmful sexual behaviours means that some children and young people consider them normal.*

When we asked children and young people where sexual violence occurred, they typically talked about unsupervised spaces outside of school, such as parties or parks without adults present, although some girls told us they also experienced unwanted touching in school corridors.

Goldington Academy will take appropriate action in response to any incidences of child-on-child sexual abuse. Please contact a member of the safeguarding team regarding any concerns about child-on-child sexual abuse in school.

Radicalisation and extremism

Radicalisation refers to the process by which a person comes to support terrorism and forms of extremism. There is no single way of identifying an individual who is likely to be susceptible to an extremist ideology. It can happen in many different ways and settings. Some background factors may contribute to vulnerability, which is often combined with specific influences such as family, friends or online, and with specific needs for which an extremist or terrorist group may appear to provide an answer. The internet and the use of social media has become a major factor in the radicalisation of young people.

Some vulnerabilities may include:

- Absence from school
- Social isolation
- Mental health issues
- Lack of education around the risks

Extremism is vocal or active opposition to fundamental British values, including democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance of different faiths and beliefs. Also included in the definition of extremism are calls for the death of members of our armed forces, whether in this country or overseas.

As with other safeguarding risks, adults should be alert to changes in children's behaviour, as this may indicate that they are potentially being radicalised and may be in need of help or protection. The school will act proportionately in response to concerns about radicalisation, which may include making a referral to the Channel programme. Parents will always be a part of this process and will be kept informed at each stage of the referral process.

For further information, please visit: [Prevent | Counter Terrorism Policing](#)

[Free Online Safety Guide | EA Sports FC \(nationalcollege.com\)](#)

For 20 years, FIFA dominated the football video gaming arena, attracting legions of devoted fans and scooping up accolades like a digital Real Madrid. After parting ways with the sport's governing body, however, renowned developers Electronic Arts (EA) have now launched their own individual bid for the title. It's called EA Sports FC 24, and it's effectively FIFA 2.0. Familiar action delivered by the same team, of course, points to a comparable level of popularity, especially among those young gamers raised on the FIFA franchise. As our #WakeUpWednesday guide highlights, however, EA Sports FC 24 also carries many similar risks to its predecessor, including addictive gameplay, abusive voice chats and expensive in-game purchases.

<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.