



**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](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

Firstly, a very warm welcome to all pupils returning to and starting at Goldington Academy this September. We look forward to working with pupils and their families throughout the coming year.

Welcome to the first edition of our safeguarding newsletter, which is designed to support parents in deepening their understanding of safeguarding issues that may affect young people. Each newsletter will focus on a different safeguarding risk and also focus on an E-Safety risk.

Safeguarding children is the action of promoting the welfare of children and protecting them from harm. Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility. Every single person who comes into contact with children and families has a role to play. You will see further down the page who to speak to if you have concerns about a child's safety or welfare, however all Goldington Academy staff are trained in safeguarding.

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**

**Keeping Children Safe in Education 2023**

Keeping Children Safe in Education is a statutory Department for Education document that all schools are required to follow when carrying out their duties to safeguard and promote the welfare of children. It covers many aspects of safeguarding, including different forms of abuse, early help processes, safe-recruitment, how concerns must be reported and the role of the Designated Safeguarding Leads. Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children is defined as:

Protecting children from maltreatment, preventing impairment of children's mental and physical health or development, ensuring that children grow up in circumstances consistent with the provision of safe and effective care, taking action to enable all children to have the best possible outcomes.

Click here for the full document: [Keeping children safe in education 2023 \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://www.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/90123/Keeping-Children-Safe-in-Education-2023.pdf)

## County Lines

County lines is when gangs and organised crime groups exploit children to transport and sell drugs, normally between big cities where the exploiters are based to smaller towns, sometimes across county boundaries but also locally and within the borough. The children have dedicated mobile phone 'lines' for taking orders for drugs; children are used as they are less likely to be stopped by police, allowing adult dealers to avoid the risk of arrest.

County lines is a form of criminal exploitation, where a person or a group takes advantage of their contact with and influence over a young person to coerce or manipulate them to commit a criminal act. Children as young as six have been targeted by gangs for this purpose.

Young people may be recruited for county lines and other forms of criminal exploitation by a process of grooming: at the targeting stage, the exploiter befriends the young person and gains their trust. Young people may be recruited through social media and/or through their peer group. Parents of some of the victims of County Lines have reported a sudden change in their child's behaviour. Possible indicators are:

- Unexplained money, clothes or gifts
- Frequent, unexplained phone calls
- New friendship circle that involves older children or adults
- Not attending school
- Carrying weapons

For more information, please visit [Protecting children from county lines | NSPCC Learning](#) or speak to school staff.

## Ten Top Tips for Stronger Passwords

This free online safety guide has some useful tips on setting stronger passwords, including how to get creative, what to avoid and the value of multi-factor authentication. According to a Google survey, more than half of us (52% to be exact) routinely re-use the same passwords, with around one in ten employing a single password across all of their online accounts. What that means, of course, is that any hacker successfully cracking our password would find themselves with access to not simply one of our online accounts, but several (at least). That, along with the fact that many people's favoured passwords are not exactly impenetrable, makes it easier to see why some sources put the number of online accounts being broken into at around 100 per second. Yes, you read that right: 100 per second. To help give you some extra peace of mind about your digital data, our #WakeUpWednesday guide has some tips on setting more secure passwords.

<https://nationalcollege.com/guides/stronger-passwords>

Please find below the URL you will need. Complete your details and select "I am a: Parent/Carer" from the dropdown:

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.