



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 Ropnarain
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 twelfth 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 **vaping THC oil** and **school attendance**. Drugs education is covered at length through our 'Life Skills' curriculum, and we also use external speakers to help educate our pupils in this area.

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

Vaping and THC oil

The vaping of THC oil is unfortunately a trend that has started recently amongst some young people.

Smoking or vaping THC can cause hallucinations, hunger, giggling, confusion and sometimes sickness. Vaping the THC oil is extremely dangerous, as THC oil is not meant to be inhaled. It is not soluble in water and therefore will not move through the body quickly. Due to this, the oil can get caught in users lungs, causing serious long-term issues, such as lipid pneumonia.

Once a person vapes THC, the effects may not be immediate and users can appear like their normal selves initially. However, once the effects begin, they become ill at a very quick rate – usually within a few minutes – and they may appear panicked, and look pale. Users pupils will be fully dilated and sometimes they will be unable to keep their eyes open. They may get dizzy and may start reaching out for things and may eventually collapse. The heart rate becomes very fast and medical help must be called for immediately. If the person has fainted or is unresponsive, they should be put into the recovery position until medical help arrives.

Finally, if pupils or parents have any concerns about young people they know who may be using drugs, they should speak to a member of the school's safeguarding team. This can of course be done anonymously.

For further information, please use 'Talk to Frank' <https://www.talktofrank.com>

School attendance

As the weather turns cold, there is no doubt that seasonal illnesses are out in force. However, we ask that parents and children are mindful that school attendance is key to learning and that minor illnesses can be managed in school. Please see below some useful information from gov.uk about how some specific seasonal illnesses should be managed.

Please see <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/health-protection-in-schools-and-other-childcare-facilities/children-and-young-people-settings-tools-and-resources#exclusion-table>

Respiratory infections including coronavirus (COVID-19)	Individuals should not attend if they have a high temperature and are unwell. Individuals who have a positive test result for COVID-19 should not attend the setting for 3 days after the day of the test.	Individuals with mild symptoms such as runny nose, and headache who are otherwise well can continue to attend their setting.
Diarrhoea and vomiting	Individuals can return 48 hours after diarrhoea and vomiting have stopped.	If a particular cause of the diarrhoea and vomiting is identified, there may be additional exclusion advice, for example E. coli STEC and hep A.

For more information, see [Managing outbreaks and incidents.](#)

What Parents and Carers Need to Know About “WhatsApp”

[Free Online Safety Guide | WhatsApp \(nationalcollege.com\)](#)

WhatsApp is the most widely used messaging platform on the planet, with over two billion users (forecast to become three billion by 2025), across more than 180 countries. The majority of those people (70%) open the app at least once a day – but what exactly are they seeing? Contact from strangers, fake news and convincing scams are all among the service’s well-documented hazards. According to Ofcom, WhatsApp is used by more than half of 3- to 17-year-olds in the UK (including one in three from the 8–11 bracket), despite its 16+ age restriction. If your child hops onto WhatsApp to stay in touch with friends or family, our updated #WakeUpWednesday guide to the service contains the key details you will need to support them in doing it safely.

<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.