



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

**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

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 fifteenth 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 'Chroming' and violence against women and girls.

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

Chroming

Chroming is a recent drug trend in which individuals inhale the fumes of intoxicants such as aerosols, paint or solvents to get high. The name came from the original act of sniffing chrome-based paint. Although using inhalants is not new, recent social media trends are adding a new dimension of peer pressure through the 'TikTok Challenge'.

Chroming may involve:

- Sniffing: Inhaling vapours directly from a container, such as a nail polish remover bottle.
- Bagging: Inhaling vapours, like air freshener spray, directly from a plastic or paper bag.
- Huffing: Inhaling petrol, lighter fluid or other vapours soaked into fabric.

Some young people may think chroming is a safe way to get high rather than using illegal drugs. Products used in chroming, like spray paint bottles and markers, are easy to purchase and do not have the same restrictions of some drugs or age limitations like alcohol.

Why is it dangerous?

As well as the short-term effects typical of substance abuse, experts have warned that 'chroming' can lead to long term brain damage and also damage to internal organs.

<https://www.parents.com/what-is-chroming-7508182>

Want to feel more confident to talk to your child about the challenges they face and how to keep themselves safe?

Then, join our:

'Parenting 24' webinar

This 45-minute online session will help you to learn more about violence against women and girls (VAWG), how it can start and develop and how to discuss this with your child (male or female).

Thursday 25th January at 4pm
Tuesday 20th February at 6.30pm
Monday 18th March at 1pm

Specifically aimed at parents with the purpose of:

- Understanding what VAWG is, who is affected and how
- Providing a space and platform to discuss why it is a problem
- Learning how to talk to our children about VAWG
- Raising our girls and boys in 2024

To reserve your place and register for the Zoom link, email:

jo@lawc.org.uk

This webinar is fully funded by the Home Office in conjunction with Bedfordshire Police as part of the Safer Streets 5 initiative.

<https://nationalcollege.com/guides/parental-controls-on-new-devices>

At this time of year, it is highly possible that you have a new phone, games console or other digital device stashed somewhere at home, ready to be unwrapped. Many parents also prefer to place some protective measures on those gifts, to keep their child shielded from potential #OnlineSafety risks, while others would like to, but are not sure where to begin.

Our guide shepherds you through the process of establishing parental controls on new internet-enabled devices, from smartphones to laptops to consoles. Simply find the device in question and read on to find out what options you have and how to enable them, letting children enjoy their shiny new gadget, without so much of the worry over where it might lead them.

<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.