



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 twenty-first 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 **knife crime** and **self-harm**. We regularly educate our students about both of these topics through our Life Skills curriculum and through our 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**

Knife crime

With a steady rise in knife related crimes being reported over recent years, there is a concern that it is fast becoming an epidemic across the country, specifically impacting on young people, families and communities. Young people are sometimes exploited into crime and this may involve carrying or 'holding' a knife or weapon for someone else.

Potential signs that a young person may be being exploited:

- Being secretive about where they are, what they are doing and who they are seeing.
- Not letting parents look in bags, coat pockets or bedrooms.
- Being secretive around their phone and not allowing parents access to it.
- Being in possession of expensive items that they did not have before e.g. clothes, jewellery etc.
- Going missing for periods of time and being absent/truant from school.
- Becoming isolated/distant from friends and family.
- Having new marks or injuries and being secretive about how they were obtained

Approaching this type of conversation with children can often be difficult for parents. For information and advice please see:

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/support-for-parents/talking-about-difficult-topics/>

Self-harm

Unfortunately, some young people turn to self-harm as a way of coping with difficult feelings, painful memories or overwhelming situations and experiences, for example bullying, bereavement or stress. Whilst self-harm may temporarily provide relief, it always carries a risk, for example through infection.

Common forms of self-harm include:

- Cutting one's self with a sharp object e.g. a razor
- Scratching skin with a sharp object
- Punching objects
- Pulling out hair
- Burning skin e.g. with an aerosol spray, lighter or match

Common signs to look out for include:

- Young people attempting to cover up, for example wearing long sleeves in the summer
- Unexplained bruises, cuts, burn marks on the body
- Blood stains on clothing, blood stain tissues or bedsheets
- Becoming withdrawn, isolated and wanting to spend time alone in a private place
- Avoiding friends and family
- Having low self-esteem
- Outbursts of anger
- Engaging in risky behaviours, such as drinking heavily or taking drugs

For further information, please visit: <https://www.youngminds.org.uk/parent/parents-a-z-mental-health-guide/self-harm/>

12 Social Media Safety Tips

[12 Social Media Safety Tips | Free Online Safety Guide \(nationalcollege.com\)](#)

This week's free online safety guide focuses on 12 social media online safety tips for children with new devices. The guide takes a look at a number of tips on social media such as do not accept friend requests from strangers, block online bullies and to never share your personal information with people you do not know.

<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.