



**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](mailto:safeguarding@goldington.beds.sch.uk)

**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

Welcome to the twenty-second 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, we revisit **domestic abuse** and **child-on-child abuse**. We teach children about healthy relationships and how to respond to any concerns they may have through our Life Skills curriculum and through our wider curriculum e.g. assemblies.

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**

**Domestic abuse**

Domestic abuse is any type of controlling, bullying, threatening or violent behaviour between people in a relationship.

It is important to remember domestic abuse:

- may happen inside and outside the home, over the phone, internet and on social networking sites
- can happen in any relationship even after the relationship has ended
- both men and women can be abused or abusers. Domestic abuse can be emotional, physical, sexual, financial or psychological abuse
- may include controlling behaviour, like stopping someone from leaving the house or controlling their finances
- reading private emails, text messages or letters
- threatening to kill or harm someone

Living in a home where domestic abuse happens can have a serious impact on a child or young person's mental and physical wellbeing, as well as their behaviour and impact them well beyond their childhood. If you are experiencing domestic abuse or are concerned about someone who may be, the following contacts may be useful to you.

**National Domestic Violence Helpline** 0808 2000 247 A 24-hour free helpline

**Men's Advice Line** 0808 801 0327 Advice and support for men experiencing domestic abuse

## Child-on-child abuse

Child-on-child abuse is any form of physical, sexual, emotional and financial abuse, and coercive control, exercised between children.

This may include:

- bullying, including cyberbullying, prejudice-based bullying
- any form of physical abuse
- Harmful sexual behaviours or sexual harassment, such as sexual comments, remarks, jokes and online sexual harassment
- causing another child to engage in sexual activity without consent, consensual and non-consensual sharing of nude and semi-nude images and or videos.

Downplaying sexual harassment and abuse can lead to a culture of unacceptable behaviours and an unsafe environment for children. We take a zero-tolerance approach to sexual harassment and abuse at Goldington Academy and never dismiss this type of behaviour as “just banter”, “just having a laugh”, “part of growing up” or “boys being boys”.

If you have any concerns about child-on-child abuse or harm, please speak to a member of staff or the safeguarding team.

## What Parents and Carers Need to Know about Persuasive Design Online

<https://nationalcollege.com/guides/persuasive-design-2>

For many companies who operate in the online space, attention and engagement are the holy grail. Social media sites in particular make deliberate creative choices to keep people scrolling, reading, watching and clicking. This phenomenon is known as ‘persuasive design’ and it is being employed in the vast majority of the digital world’s most popular destinations.

A study by the charity 5Rights Foundation concluded that “... the brain's response to rewards and punishments can be leveraged through persuasive design to keep children online.” To tie in with Safer Internet Day 2024, our #WakeUpWednesday guide can help to educate youngsters on the effects of persuasive design – and suggests ways to insulate themselves from its influence.

<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.