



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-fourth 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 **Private Fostering** and a recap of **Young Carers**. The school has excellent links to carers in Bedfordshire; please do not hesitate to contact us if you think that your child may qualify as a young carer.

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**

Private fostering

Private fostering is a term used to describe a scenario where a child under the age of 16 (or 18 if they have a disability) is living away from home and being cared for by someone who is not their parent or a close relative. This is an arrangement made between the parent (or persons with parental responsibilities) and the carers and is planned to last longer than 28 days.

Children become privately fostered for many different reasons, for example parents have ill health or a parental custodial sentence. Children who are older will sometimes choose to move away from home and make their own private fostering arrangement.

A private foster carer may be a more distant relative or a family friend such as:

- a great aunt or uncle
- great grandparents
- a cousin
- a friend or the parent of a child's friend
- godparent or a neighbour
- Also host families taking in exchange students for more than 28 days need to be assessed as private foster carers if the young person is under 16.

By law, parents and carers must notify the local authority of a private fostering arrangement – please see <https://www.bedford.gov.uk/social-care-and-health/children-and-families/private-fostering>

Young Carers

A young carer is someone under eighteen years of age who helps look after someone in their family, or a friend, who is ill, disabled or misuses drugs or alcohol. Young carers might undertake activities in the home such as:

- Practical tasks, such as cooking, housework and shopping.
- Physical care, such as helping someone out of bed.
- Emotional support, such as talking to someone who is distressed.
- Personal care, such as helping someone dress.
- Managing the family budget and collecting prescriptions.
- Helping to give medicine.
- Helping someone communicate.
- Looking after brothers and sisters

Being a young carer can have a big impact on the things that are important to growing up, for example it can affect a young person's health, social life and self-confidence. Many young carers struggle to juggle their education and caring which can cause pressure and stress.

All young carers are entitled to a needs assessment by the local authority.

If you feel that your child may be an unidentified young carer, or a young carer needing more support, please do not hesitate to contact a member of the school's safeguarding team. More information can be found at [Young Carers - Carers In Bedfordshire \(carersinbeds.org.uk\)](http://www.carersinbeds.org.uk)

<https://www.bedford.gov.uk/social-care-and-health/children-and-families/engagement-and-development/young-carers>

What Parents and Carers Need to Know about Online Dating & Relationships

<https://nationalcollege.com/guides/online-dating-platforms>

Online dating has seen a sharp rise in popularity over the last few years – especially in 2020, when the boat was well and truly rocked for all of us. Apps like MyLOL and Wink have drawn a huge userbase of young people – and it is not hard to see why. With their sleek design and ease of use, the promise of finding love with “but a swipe of your finger” is an appealing one indeed.

It is not, however, all sunshine and rainbows. While these apps have helped bring together many couples who may never have met otherwise, lax security measures and bad actors can turn these apps into a hotbed of #OnlineSafety risks. Our #WakeUpWednesday guide investigates these risks and makes sure you're equipped to keep your child safe in the world of online dating.

<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.