



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-sixth 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. This issue revisits the importance of securing good school attendance and mental health, specifically self-harm. We regularly talk to children about the importance of good attendance at school.

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**

School Attendance

Being with teachers and friends in a school environment is the best way for pupils to learn and reach their potential. Time in school keeps children safe and provides access to extra-curricular opportunities and pastoral care.

[Evidence](#) shows that the students with the highest attendance throughout their time in school gain the best GCSEs.

Every moment in school counts, and days missed add up quickly. For example, a child in Year Ten who is absent for three days over a half term could miss 15 lessons in total. The higher a pupil's attendance, the more they are likely to learn, and the better they are likely to perform in exams and formal assessments.

Parents must ensure that their child/children attend every day that the school is open, unless:

- The child is too ill to attend.
- Parents have asked in advance and been given permission by the school for their child to be absent on a specific day due to exceptional circumstances.
- The child cannot go to school on a specific day because they are observing a religious event.
- The local authority responsible for arranging your child's transport to school is not available or has not arrived.

The information above was taken from <https://educationhub.blog.gov.uk/2023/05/18/school-attendance-important-risks-missing-day/>

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/>

[What Parents and Educators Need to Know about 'Township' | Free E-Guide \(nationalcollege.com\)](#)

Potentially addictive online games are nothing new, but the specifics of this kind of media can vary enormously and, as a consequence, the risks in each individual game are just as diverse. The city-builder 'Township' is no exception: providing its legions of devotees with accessible, satisfying fun... but exposing them to potential hazards at the same time.

However, any safeguarding issues that the game might have can (with a little knowhow) be neutralised allowing young players to have some engrossing fun without adults needing to worry about children's data, their money or their mental wellbeing. Our guide outlines how to help young gamers enjoy 'Township' safely and responsibly.

<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.