



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.bedsch.uk

**Designated Safeguarding Lead
Head of Year Nine:**

Mr Will Atkinson

atkinsonw@goldington.bedsch.uk

**Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead
Head of Year Seven:**

Mrs Anthea Jones

jonesa@goldington.bedsch.uk

School Safeguarding Governor:

Mrs Kate Reynier

reynierk@goldington.bedsch.uk

Special Educational Needs Coordinator:

Mr Sailesh Roopnarain

roopnarains@goldington.bedsch.uk

Head of Year Eight:

Mr Michael Lincoln

lincolnm@goldington.bedsch.uk

Head of Year Ten:

Mr James Pinkney

pinkneyj@goldington.bedsch.uk

Head of Year Eleven:

Mr Liam Hall

halll@goldington.bedsch.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-seventh 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. The issue focuses on how parents can keep children safe when using ‘Online tutors’ and key information on the topic of sharing ‘nude images’ from the Children’s Comissioner.

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

**ONLINE TUTORS
KEEPING CHILDREN SAFE
GUIDANCE FOR PARENTS & CARERS**

YOU MIGHT GET A TUTOR FROM SCHOOL, THE NATIONAL TUTORING PROGRAMME, A GOOGLE SEARCH OR A RECOMMENDATION. BUT ANYONE CAN CALL THEMSELVES A TUTOR, SO HOW CAN YOU KEEP YOUR CHILDREN SAFE WHILE THEY CATCH UP?

- 1) Select the right tutor**
 - Get to know them first - ask about qualifications, experience (freelance? umbrella body?) & approach
 - Take up references and speak to them if you can
 - Ask to see a DBS (criminal record) check. NB - private tutors can only get the basic check; (don't let a DBS give you a false sense of security though)
 - Find out which platform they will use and its safety features
- 2) Establish clear rules**
 - Sessions must always be arranged via you; the tutor should not contact your child directly between sessions, send private messages or change communication platform
 - A tutor is not a friend – they should behave in a professional way, like a teacher
 - Sessions must not be recorded without your approval
 - Try to be in the room for all sessions, especially for younger children, and certainly the first time
 - Your child should not join a session from a bedroom. If this is unavoidable, pop in frequently, ensure they are fully dressed at all times, point the camera away from beds & personal information, and blur or change the background
- 3) Make sure your child knows**
 - The rules apply to them and the tutor
 - A tutor is a teacher not a friend
 - Neither tutor nor child should share personal information, private messages or photos & videos
 - They must never meet without your approval or communicate on a different platform
 - Who their trusted adults are at home and school
 - They can tell you if they are asked to keep a secret or anything happens or is said that is strange or makes them feel uncomfortable, scared or upset

FIND MORE SAFEGUARDING RESOURCES TO SUPPORT PARENTS AT [PARENTSAFE.LGFL.NET](https://www.parentsafelgfl.net)



Sharing nude images

The social consequences of sharing nudes

Girls face more consequences for sharing nudes than boys. Research shows that girls are looked down upon when a nude is leaked and it damages their reputation; but for boys, however unfairly, it seems the opposite is true – it can be a source of validation. A recent study found that **60% of young people think that a girl would lose social status** if a nude image of her was shared on Whatsapp, while **60% thought that a boy would gain social status** in the same situation.⁴

It is important to be aware of the fact that the social consequences for a male or a female child may be different, and to be sensitive to these. You can also use your proactive conversations with your child to challenge damaging and unfair gender stereotypes around sharing intimate images.



"A lot of parents might just blame the child instantly instead of trying to support them."

The legal consequences of sharing nudes

A nude image of an under-18 is classed as child abuse imagery. And while it is important that children sharing nudes are not criminalised, it needs to be addressed.

Where there is no evidence of exploitation or grooming it is unlikely that a child would be prosecuted for sharing a nude – particularly if it is a first offence. Police may investigate but can choose to record the incident in a way that does not have a negative impact on the children involved. More info can be found on [Parents Protect](#).

Top tips from 16–21 year-olds

Be proactive

- 1 Start speaking to your child about the risks of sharing pictures when you first give them a phone. You can do this in an age-appropriate way using the [ThinkUKnow](#) videos.
- 2 Explain to your child early on that they may be sent naked pictures by someone else. The number one rule is that they don't send it on to anyone else. If it upsets them they should speak to you so you can look after them and help them to report it.
- 3 Don't assume your child is not involved. Sharing nudes is a very common part of growing up for some young people - although it shouldn't be. Be prepared to support them if something goes wrong.

If your child tells you that they have shared someone else's nude:

- 1 Be very clear that pressuring someone for anything is wrong, especially something as personal as a naked picture. Have a conversation about how and why it happened.
- 2 Our young people think vulnerability is important in this situation. Remind your child we all make mistakes, and the important thing is to be honest and responsible after it has happened.
- 3 Seek advice from the safeguarding lead at your child's school. More information on how the school is likely to manage the situation can be found [here](#).

If your child tells you that a nude image of them has been shared:

- 1 Teens want parents to offer practical advice (e.g. helping them contact tech platforms to stop images circulating.) Contact [Childline](#)/[IWF Report Remove](#) and make a report to [NCA CEOP](#) if you think the image has been shared with an adult. More advice on how to respond can be found on [Internet Matters](#).
- 2 Seek advice from the safeguarding lead at your child's school. More information on how the school is likely to manage the situation can be found [here](#).
- 3 Teens want parents to be emotionally supportive. The young person is in a vulnerable state, and they are likely to be feeling fear and embarrassment among other emotions. They need to hear that you love them and that you will work things out with them.

[Click here to go to our resources page for more information](#)

All quotes from young people aged 16-21

[What You Need to Know about 'Clickbait' | Free Online Safety Guide \(nationalcollege.com\)](#)

While scrolling online, you will almost inevitably have come across posts or links with headlines like "You Won't Believe These 10 Crazy Facts about ...". Such lurid language and the often-dubious nature of the content it promotes has become something of a running joke on the internet. Yet while these articles are often laughed at by communities online, they can have an insidious side.

'Clickbait', as it is known, can frequently function as part of a trap: intended to draw users in for the sake of advertising revenue or, in worse cases, masking an attempting to collect their personal information. This #WakeUpWednesday guide explores the various risks of 'Clickbait' and offers some top tips for evading the pitfalls of this controversial marketing technique.

<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.