



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 Roonparain
roonparains@goldington.beds.sch.uk

Head of Year Eight:

Mrs Louise McCarthy-Gardner
mccarthy-gardnerl@goldington.beds.sch.uk

Head of Year Nine:

Mr Michael Lincoln
lincolnm@goldington.beds.sch.uk

Head of Year Ten:

Mr Liam Hall
hall@goldington.beds.sch.uk

Head of Year Eleven:

Mr James Pinkney
pinkneyj@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 third edition of the safeguarding 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 **child-on-child abuse** and specifically **bullying**.

All of our staff are trained to recognise the possible indicators of child-on-child abuse and how to report it. In addition, we educate our pupils to recognise the signs of child-on-child abuse and the correct action to take if they are concerned about either themselves or others being abused by their peers.

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

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 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.

Bullying

Bullying is a form of child-on-child abuse and can be defined as “behaviour by an individual or a group, repeated over time that intentionally hurts another individual either physically or emotionally”.

Bullying can include name calling, taunting, mocking, making offensive comments, kicking, hitting, taking belongings, producing offensive graffiti, gossiping, excluding people from groups and spreading hurtful and untruthful rumours.

- This includes the same unacceptable behaviours expressed online, sometimes called online or cyberbullying. This can include: sending offensive, upsetting and inappropriate messages by phone, text, instant messenger, through gaming, websites, social media sites and apps, and sending offensive or degrading photos or videos.
- Bullying is recognised by the school as being a form of child-on-child abuse. It can be emotionally abusive and can cause severe and adverse effects on children’s emotional health.

Bullying is not a one-off fall-out or a disagreement between people and it is important to recognise this. This does not mean that school will not do all it can to resolve fall-outs between pupils.

At Goldington Academy, we have a number of reporting methods for pupils and parents. These include, an online reporting tool (along with a CEOP link to report cyberbullying), anti-bullying boxes in every form room, anti-bullying ambassadors, email access etc. We encourage pupils and parents to use these tools to report concerns about bullying at the earliest opportunity.

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about QR-Code Scams

<https://nationalcollege.com/guides/qr-code-scams>

QR codes are a useful means by which people can quickly access online resources and other information, simply by scanning the pixellated pattern with their phone’s camera. Unfortunately, as with many other advances in technology, there are those who use QR codes to scam and defraud unsuspecting people, tricking them into providing their personal details and payment information.

It can be difficult to determine when a QR code is legitimate or where exactly you might encounter a scam of this nature, but it is important to learn how, if you wish to avoid falling victim to such a thing. This free guide explores the most common places you may find a QR code scam and explains how best to protect yourself from this underhanded practice.

<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.