



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 thirty first 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 revisits the importance of school attendance for young people and knife crime as a growing danger for young people and wider communities.

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 GCSE.

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 your 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 is responsible for arranging your child's transport to school and it's not available or has not turned up.

The information above was taken from

<https://educationhub.blog.gov.uk/2023/05/18/school-attendance-important-risks-missing-day/>

Knife crime

With a steady rise in knife related crimes being reported over recent years, there is a concern that it is fast becoming an epidemic across the country, specifically impacting on young people, families and communities. Young people are sometimes exploited into crime and this may involve carrying or 'holding' a knife or weapon for someone else.

Potential signs that a young person may be being exploited:

- Being secretive about where they are, what they are doing and who they are seeing.
- Not letting parents look in bags, coat pockets or bedrooms.
- Being secretive around their phone and not allowing parents access to it.
- Being in possession of expensive items that they didn't have before e.g., clothes, jewellery etc.
- Going missing for periods of time and being absent/truant from school.
- Becoming isolated/distant from friends and family.
- Having new marks or injuries and being secretive about how they were obtained.

Approaching this type of conversation with children can often be difficult for parents. For information and advice please see: <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/support-for-parents/talking-about-difficult-topics/>

<https://nationalcollege.com/guides/managing-exam-stress>

Exam stress – sometimes referred to as 'test anxiety' is of course a long-running issue for children and young people. Many experts have suggested that the enforced break to traditional testing during the pandemic (specifically the relative lack of familiarity with exam situations) has exacerbated this problem for those who are currently in education.

The possible impact of exam stress on children's mental, emotional and physical wellbeing is difficult to overstate and students' need for support is seldom greater than during these periods of their academic life. Our guide offers you ten practical tips for helping young people to manage exam stress and minimise its potentially detrimental effects.

<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:

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| • Adolescent response team | • Family Support Hub |
| • Early Help Hub | • Inclusion Support |
| • Education Welfare | • Parenting Team |
| • Family Information Service | • 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.