



**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](mailto:safeguarding@goldington.beds.sch.uk)

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

Mr Will Atkinson

[atkinsonw@goldington.beds.sch.uk](mailto:atkinsonw@goldington.beds.sch.uk)

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

Mrs Anthea Jones

[jonesa@goldington.beds.sch.uk](mailto:jonesa@goldington.beds.sch.uk)

**School Safeguarding Governor:**

Mrs Kate Reynier

[reynierk@goldington.beds.sch.uk](mailto:reynierk@goldington.beds.sch.uk)

**Special Educational Needs Coordinator:**

Mr Sailesh Roopnarain

[roopnarains@goldington.beds.sch.uk](mailto:roopnarains@goldington.beds.sch.uk)

**Head of Year Eight:**

Mr Michael Lincoln

[lincolnm@goldington.beds.sch.uk](mailto:lincolnm@goldington.beds.sch.uk)

**Head of Year Ten:**

Mr James Pinkney

[pinkneyj@goldington.beds.sch.uk](mailto:pinkneyj@goldington.beds.sch.uk)

**Head of Year Eleven:**

Mr Liam Hall

[halll@goldington.beds.sch.uk](mailto: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 thirty-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.

This issue revisits **Female Genital Mutilation** and **County Lines**. We teach children how to keep themselves safe and how to report any concerns they may have through our Life Skills curriculum and the wider curriculum. The numbers of useful organisations, such as the NSPCC, can be found on the safeguarding page of the Pupil Planner.

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**

**Female Genital Mutilation**

Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) comprises all procedures involving the partial or total removal of the external female genitalia or any other injury to the female genital organs for non-medical reasons. FGM is sometimes known as 'female genital cutting' or female circumcision and is often performed by people with no medical training, using instruments such as knives, scalpels, scissors, glass or razor blades. Children are rarely given anaesthetic or antiseptic treatment. FGM is used to control female sexuality and can cause long-lasting damage to physical and emotional health.

The World Health Organisation estimates that three million girls are victim to some form of the procedure every year in Africa alone. It is practised in 28 countries in Africa and some in the Middle East and Asia. FGM is child abuse in the UK and violates a child's right to life.

It is an offence for UK nationals or permanent UK residents to carry out FGM abroad or to assist the carrying out of FGM abroad.

If you are concerned that a child may be at risk of FGM, you can call the NSPCC FGM helpline on 0800 028 3550 for more information or email them at [fgmhelp@nspcc.org.uk](mailto:fgmhelp@nspcc.org.uk).

## County Lines

County lines is when gangs and organised crime groups exploit children to transport and sell drugs, normally between big cities where the exploiters are based to smaller towns, sometimes across county boundaries but also locally and within the borough. The children have dedicated mobile phone 'lines' for taking orders for drugs; children are used as they are less likely to be stopped by police, allowing adult dealers to avoid the risk of arrest.

County lines is a form of criminal exploitation, where a person or a group takes advantage of their contact with and influence over a young person to coerce or manipulate them to commit a criminal act. Children as young as six have been targeted by gangs for this purpose.

Young people may be recruited for county lines and other forms of criminal exploitation by a process of grooming.. At the targeting stage, the exploiter befriends the young person and gains their trust. Young people may be recruited through social media and/or through their peer group. Parents of some of the victims of County Lines have reported a sudden change in their child's behaviour. Possible indicators are:

- Unexplained money, clothes or gifts
- Frequent, unexplained phone calls
- New friendship circle that involves older children or adults
- Not attending school
- Carrying weapons

For more information, please visit [Protecting children from county lines | NSPCC Learning](#) or speak to school staff.

## 10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators: Encouraging Healthy Friendships

<https://nationalcollege.com/guides/healthy-friendships>

It is common for young people to have comparatively less of an understanding of social conventions. While children can benefit from this to some degree, making friends at the drop of a hat, this can also generate a good deal of confusion regarding certain aspects of any relationships that they form.

<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   | • 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.