



**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-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.

In this issue, we revisit **Knife Crime** and **County Lines**. We educate pupils around both of these dangers through our Life Skills curriculum and wider assembly programme.

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**

**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. National and local research continues to determine root causes of why young people are carrying knives. Although not exhaustive, below are some common factors known to influence young people to carry knives:

- County lines – organised drug networks
- Gang affiliation – protection/status
- Media attention/glamorisation
- Fear of crime – being attacked/self-protection
- Victim of bullying – self-protection
- Peer pressure

The common factor is the 'vicious circle' young people find themselves in: for example in a gang/drug network, it is an expectation for gang members to be armed: 'fear or be feared', 'live or die' regarding fear of crime and thinking 'I need to defend myself'.

The biggest risk is that if a young person carries a knife, they will almost definitely use it in situations where they feel the need to protect themselves, commit a crime, cause fear or reinforce their status/reputation.

Further information can be found at: <https://benkinsella.org.uk/resources-for-parents/>

## 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 open conversations at home

<https://nationalcollege.com/guides/10-top-tips-for-parents-and-educators-encouraging-open-conversations-at-home>

Cultural and technological changes have made the experiences of today's children vastly different to our own childhoods. It can be challenging to engage youngsters in open, honest conversation, especially about more sensitive topics. This, combined with many children's instinct to avoid "rocking the boat", can make it difficult to stay up-to-date with the goings on in their lives.

However, it is hugely important that trusted adults still offer an empathetic ear and feel able to encourage young people to open up about their day-to-day activities. This #WakeUpWednesday guide provides ten top tips for promoting open conversations with children, helping to make sure there is someone they know they can turn to in times of need.

<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