



### 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.

#### 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 fifth 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, the main focus is on **Homophobic language** and **Young Carers**. Goldington Academy staff will always challenge homophobic language and will never pass it off as 'just banter'. We educate our pupils about discrimination through our Life Skills curriculum in particular.

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**

### Homophobic language

Homophobic language are terms of abuse that are often directed towards the LGBT+ community. A Stonewall survey found the most common form of homophobic language used in schools is 'that is so gay' and 'you are so gay'. 99% of gay young people report hearing the casual use of these phrases regularly. These comments are often directed towards people who are actually, or perceived to be gay. Although, they are most often used to mean that something is bad or rubbish, with no actual link to sexual orientation at all.

Whilst often dismissed as banter, the unchallenged use of 'gay' as a casual derogatory term has a hugely negative effect on gay young people's self-esteem. The Stonewall survey also found that nearly half of LGBT pupils including 64% of trans pupils – are bullied for being LGBTQ+ in Britain's schools. Goldington Academy is committed to ensuring that we celebrate diversity and promote acceptance and will always challenge any homophobic views.

All staff know to challenge the use of homophobic language and Goldington Academy pupils know that homophobic language will not be tolerated. We also tackle these views through our Life Skills curriculum and through our assembly programme.

### Young carers

A young carer is someone under eighteen years of age who helps look after someone in their family, or a friend, who is ill, disabled or misuses drugs or alcohol. Young carers might undertake activities in the home such as:

- Practical tasks, such as cooking, housework and shopping.
- Physical care, such as helping someone out of bed.
- Emotional support, such as talking to someone who is distressed.
- Personal care, such as helping someone dress.
- Managing the family budget and collecting prescriptions.
- Helping to give medicine.
- Helping someone communicate.
- Looking after brothers and sisters.

Being a young carer can have a big impact on the things that are important to growing up, for example it can affect a young person's health, social life and self-confidence. Many young carers struggle to juggle their education and caring which can cause pressure and stress.

If you feel that your child may be an unidentified young carer, or a young carer needing more support, please do not hesitate to contact a member of the school's safeguarding team. More information can be found at [Young Carers - Carers In Bedfordshire \(carersinbeds.org.uk\)](http://carersinbeds.org.uk)

### What Parents and Carers Need to Know about Sharing Photos Online

This free online safety guide explores sharing photos on social media and what we should consider in avoiding possible harm.

One of the more heart-warming, life-affirming aspects of social media is being able to share special moments in our children's lives with family and friends, from the first day at school or blowing out birthday cake candles to smiling holiday selfies and cute Halloween costumes. Is there, however, such a thing as over sharing, and can it actually put children in danger?

With potential risks such as accidentally displaying identifying details (for example images showing where a child lives or what school they go to) and photos being seen and saved by strangers, perhaps we need to take a little more caution over what we post and where we post it.

<https://nationalcollege.com/guides/sharing-photos-online>

<https://nationalcollege.com/guides/combat-online-bullying>

Please find below the URL you will need. Complete your details and select "I am a: Parent/Carer" from the dropdown:

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.