



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 Roopnarain
roopnarains@goldington.beds.sch.uk

Head of Year Eight:

Mrs Louise McCarthy-Gardner
mccarthygardnerl@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 sixth 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 **vaping** and **knife crime**. Goldington Academy has a zero-tolerance approach to both vaping and pupils carrying knives. We educate our pupils about healthy life choices through our Life Skills curriculum, but we are aware of the current trend for young people to use vapes and carry knives.

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**

Vaping

It is an unfortunate truth that some young people now use vapes regularly. We are aware that some shops are selling vapes to under age children.

What are vapes?

Vapes are electronic devices that heat a liquid and produce an aerosol or mix of small particles in the air. They come in many shapes and sizes. Most have a battery, a heating element and a place to hold a liquid. Some e-cigarettes look like regular cigarettes or cigars. They also look like USB flash drives, pens and other everyday items.

How do they work?

They produce an aerosol by heating a liquid that usually contains nicotine, flavourings and other chemicals that help to make the aerosol. This liquid is sometimes called 'e-juice', 'e-liquid', 'vape juice' or 'vape liquid.' As well as the flavoured liquids, E-cigarette devices can be used to deliver marijuana and other drugs. It has been reported liquid drugs such as LSD, GHB and Ketamine are being vaped as well. Nicotine is highly addictive and can harm adolescent brain development, which continues into the early to mid-20s. For more information and advice click link below:

<https://parents.actionforchildren.org.uk/behaviour/challenging-behaviour/im-worried-about-my-child-vaping/>

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/>

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about YouTube

<https://nationalcollege.com/guides/youtube-2022>

A free online safety guide on YouTube.

YouTube is a video-sharing social media platform that allows billions of people around the world to watch, share and upload their own videos with a vast range of content including sport, entertainment, education and lots more. It is a superb space for people to consume content that they are interested in. As a result, this astronomically popular platform has had a huge social impact: influencing online culture on a global scale and creating new celebrities.

In the guide, you will find tips on avoiding potential risks such as connecting with strangers, inappropriate content and high visibility.

<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.