



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

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

mccarthy-gardnerl@goldington.beds.sch.uk

Head of Year Nine:

Mr Michael Lincoln

lincolnm@goldington.beds.sch.uk

Head of Year Ten:

Mr Liam Hall

halll@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 ninth 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 **child-on-child sexual abuse** and the parent support courses and workshops being run by the **Early Help Team**. We cover child-on-child sexual abuse through our Life Skills programme and through our assemblies. We take any allegation extremely seriously and fully investigate all concerns.

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**

Child-on-Child sexual abuse

In June 2021, Ofsted carried out a rapid review into child-on-child sexual abuse in schools. The review included visits to 32 schools and colleges. In these, Ofsted spoke to over 900 children and young people about the prevalence of child-on-child sexual harassment and sexual violence, including online.

The findings were as follows: *girls told us that sexual harassment and online sexual abuse, such as being sent unsolicited explicit sexual material and being pressured to send nude pictures ("nudes") are much more prevalent than adults realise. For example, nearly 90% of girls, and nearly 50% of boys, said being sent explicit pictures or videos of things they did not want to see happens a lot, or sometimes to them or their peers. Children and young people told us that sexual harassment occurs so frequently that it has become 'commonplace'. For example, 92% of girls and 74% of boys, said sexist name-calling happens a lot, or sometimes to them or their peers. The frequency of these harmful sexual behaviours means that some children and young people consider them normal.*

When we asked children and young people where sexual violence occurred, they typically talked about unsupervised spaces outside of school, such as parties or parks without adults present, although some girls told us they also experienced unwanted touching in school corridors.

Goldington Academy will take appropriate action in response to any incidences of child-on-child sexual abuse. Please contact a member of the safeguarding team regarding any concerns about child-on-child sexual abuse in school.

Early Help Parent Support Courses and Workshops

Please see below a link to the parent support courses and workshops offer being run by the Bedford Borough Early Help Team until the end of December 2024. The support course and workshops provide parents with practical advice and strategies to help manage the sometimes-difficult behaviour of children at home. Parents can self-enrol on the courses and workshops by scanning the QR codes. The courses on offer are:

Triple P – ‘Triple P’ is the flexible, practical way to develop skills, strategies and confidence to handle any parenting situation. When it comes to raising children and teenagers everyone has an opinion. Early Help ‘Triple P’ gives parents simple tips to help manage the big and small problems of family life.

Stepping Stones Triple P – ‘Stepping Stones Triple P’ has been developed for parents of children with a developmental disability or additional need. Because it is based on ‘Triple P’s’ proven parenting strategies, it gives you ways to deal with the kinds of childhood behaviour problems and issues that can make family life stressful.

Strengthening families - This is a programme for parents and children aged 10 to 14 to come to together. The programme aims to help families to work together to solve problems, create and sustain a positive relationship and have fun together as a family. It supports parents to manage misbehaviour, by using appropriate rewards and consequences, encourage and support their children to make good choices and decisions.

Whose In Charge - This is a 6 week programme to support parents where their children are especially challenging (violent/ aggressive) and all the usual strategies for managing behaviour do not seem to work.

[Link](#)

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about ‘Fortnite’

<https://nationalcollege.com/guides/fornite-2>

Over the years, ‘Fortnite’ has become a household name in the gaming community. It was one of the first titles in the ‘battle royale’ subgenre, where players are thrown into a chaotic free-for-all on a sprawling map and fight until only one remains. Its cartoonish presentation and satisfying gameplay loop makes it a potentially attractive choice for young players.

However, it is important to remember that online safety risks are always present, especially in multiplayer games and ‘Fortnite’ is no exception. This free guide, put together with expert input, tells you all you need to know about the safety concerns of this popular title and offers advice on how to protect children and young people as they enjoy the game.

<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.