



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 &/or
Disabilities 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 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 sixteenth 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 **knife crime** and **attendance**. We teach protective behaviours through our wider assembly programme and constantly remind our pupils of the need for good school attendance.

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. Young people are sometimes exploited into crime and this may involve carrying or 'holding' a knife or weapon for someone else.

Potential signs that a young person may be being exploited:

- Being secretive about where they are, what they are doing and who they are seeing
- Not letting parents look in bags, coat pockets or bedrooms
- Being secretive around their phone and not allowing parents access to it
- Being in possession of expensive items that they did not have before e.g. clothes, jewellery etc
- Going missing for periods of time and being absent/truant from school
- Becoming isolated/distant from friends and family
- Having new marks or injuries and being secretive about how they were obtained

Approaching this type of conversation with children can often be difficult for parents. For information and advice please see:

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/support-for-parents/talking-about-difficult-topics/>

School attendance

The weather at present is particularly cold and seasonal illnesses are out in force. However, we ask that parents and children are mindful that school attendance is key to learning and that minor illnesses can be managed in school. Please see below some useful information from gov.uk about how some specific seasonal illnesses should be managed. Our attendance target is **96%**.

Please see <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/health-protection-in-schools-and-other-childcare-facilities/children-and-young-people-settings-tools-and-resources#exclusion-table>

Respiratory infections including coronavirus (COVID-19)	Individuals should not attend if they have a high temperature and are unwell. Individuals who have a positive test result for COVID-19 should not attend the setting for 3 days after the day of the test.	Individuals with mild symptoms such as runny nose, and headache who are otherwise well can continue to attend their setting.
Diarrhoea and vomiting	Individuals can return 48 hours after diarrhoea and vomiting have stopped.	If a particular cause of the diarrhoea and vomiting is identified, there may be additional exclusion advice, for example E. coli STEC and hep A.

For more information, see: [Managing Outbreaks and Incidents](#)

Top Tips for supporting Children to Return to Routine

<https://nationalcollege.com/guides/supporting-children-to-return-to-routine>

For some children, the return to education at the end of the school holidays can be a difficult time for a variety of reasons. The start of the new term comes with plenty of challenges, from social worries to the stress of ensuring they are entirely ready for upcoming lessons and learning.

Of course, these youngsters do not have to weather these burdens alone, and as parents and educators, we should do all we can to support the children in our care as they head back to school. This free guide offers you expert advice on how you can be there for children and young people as they transition back into their school's routine.

<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.