



**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**

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

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**School Safeguarding Governor:**

Mrs Kate Reynier

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**Special Educational Needs &/or Disabilities Coordinator:**

Mr Sailesh Roopnarain

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**Head of Year Eight:**

Mrs Louise McCarthy-Gardner

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**Head of Year Nine:**

Mr Michael Lincoln

[lincolnm@goldington.beds.sch.uk](mailto:lincolnm@goldington.beds.sch.uk)

**Head of Year Ten:**

Mr Liam Hall

[halll@goldington.beds.sch.uk](mailto:halll@goldington.beds.sch.uk)

**Head of Year Eleven:**

Mr James Pinkney

[pinkneyj@goldington.beds.sch.uk](mailto: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 seventeenth 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 **Domestic Abuse** and the consequences of **sharing nude images** for young people. We teach our pupils about the dangers of sharing inappropriate images of themselves or others through our assembly programme and through outside agencies e.g. Bedfordshire Police.

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**

**Domestic abuse**

Domestic abuse is any type of controlling, bullying, threatening or violent behaviour between people in a relationship.

It is important to remember domestic abuse:

- may happen inside and outside the home, over the phone, internet and on social networking sites
- can happen in any relationship even after the relationship has ended
- both men and women can be abused or abusers. Domestic abuse can be emotional, physical, sexual, financial or psychological abuse
- may include controlling behaviour, like stopping someone from leaving the house or controlling their finances
- reading private emails, text messages or letters
- threatening to kill or harm someone

Living in a home where domestic abuse happens can have a serious impact on a child or young person's mental and physical wellbeing, as well as their behaviour and impact them well beyond their childhood. If you are experiencing domestic abuse or are concerned about someone who may be, the following contacts may be useful to you.

**National Domestic Violence Helpline** 0808 2000 247 A 24-hour free helpline

**Men's Advice Line** 0808 801 0327 Advice and support for men experiencing domestic abuse



## Sharing nude images

### The social consequences of sharing nudes

Girls face more consequences for sharing nudes than boys. Research shows that girls are looked down upon when a nude is leaked and it damages their reputation; but for boys, however unfairly, it seems the opposite is true – it can be a source of validation. A recent study found that **60% of young people think that a girl would lose social status** if a nude image of her was shared on Whatsapp, while **60% thought that a boy would gain social status** in the same situation.<sup>6</sup>

It is important to be aware of the fact that the social consequences for a male or a female child may be different, and to be sensitive to these. You can also use your proactive conversations with your child to challenge damaging and unfair gender stereotypes around sharing intimate images.



### The legal consequences of sharing nudes

A nude image of an under 18 is classed as child abuse imagery. And while it is important that children sharing nudes are not criminalised, it needs to be addressed.

Where there is no evidence of exploitation or grooming it is unlikely that a child would be prosecuted for sharing a nude – particularly if it is a first offence. Police may investigate but can choose to record the incident in a way that does not have a negative impact on the children involved.

## Top tips from 16-21 year-olds

### Be proactive

1. Start speaking to your child about the risks of sharing pictures when you first give them a phone. You can do this in an age-appropriate way.
2. Explain to your child early on that they may be sent named pictures by someone else. The number one rule is that they do not send it on to anyone else. If it upsets them, they should speak to you so you can look after them and help them to report it.
3. Do not assume your child is not involved. Sharing nudes is a very common part of growing up for some young people – although it should not be. Be prepared to support them if something goes wrong.

### If your child tells you that they have shared someone else's nude:

1. Be very clear that pressuring someone for anything is wrong, especially something as personal as a naked picture. Have a conversation about how and why it happened.
2. Our young people think vulnerability is important in this situation. Remind your child we all make mistakes, and the important thing is to be honest and responsible after it has happened.
3. Seek advice from the safeguarding lead at your child's school.

### If your child tells you that a nude image of them has been shared:

1. Teens want parents to offer practical advice (e.g. helping them contact tech platforms to stop images circulated). Contact [Childline/IWF Report Remove](#) and make a report to [NCA CEOP](#). If you think the image has been shared with an adult. More advice on how to respond can be found on [Internet Matters](#).
2. Seek advice from the safeguarding lead at your child's school.
3. Teens want parents to be emotionally supportive. The young person is in a vulnerable state, and they are likely to be feeling fear and embarrassment among other emotions. They need to hear that you love them and that you will work things out with them.

## Top Tips for staying safe on social media

<https://nationalcollege.com/guides/top-tips-for-safety-on-social-media>

With social media's ever-growing popularity among children and young people it is important for adults to keep themselves apprised of the associated risks and help youngsters to navigate these platforms in a safe, responsible manner.

However, it can be difficult to know exactly how to protect children and young people while they use these apps. This free guide offers you expert tips on supporting youngsters to enjoy the features of social media while avoiding the risks.

<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.