



**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

[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 &/or  
Disabilities Coordinator:**

Mr Sailesh Roopnarain

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

**Head of Year Eight:**

Mrs Louise McCarthy-Gardner

[mccarthy-gardnerl@goldington.beds.sch.uk](mailto:mccarthy-gardnerl@goldington.beds.sch.uk)

**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 twenty-first 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, we revisit **Vaping** and **Young Carers**. If you feel that your child may qualify as Young Carer and is not currently receiving any support in their caring role, please contact Mr Hall via email [halll@goldington.beds.sch.uk](mailto:halll@goldington.beds.sch.uk).

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', 'eliquid', '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-20's. For more information and advice click link below:

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

## 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 & Educators Need to Know about In-Game Chat

<https://nationalcollege.com/guides/in-game-chat>

Online gaming enjoys an apparently ever-increasing level of popularity and many players are eager to connect with one another as they enjoy a friendly competition or go for the win side by side. Whether it is to strategise and coordinate, or simply have a chat as you indulge in your hobby, the fact remains that plenty of games now offer means for their players to talk to one another, be that in a text or voice format.

Unfortunately, this functionality which is used to connect with strangers just as often as it is with friends, poses several risks to younger players and it is vital for parents and educators to understand these safety concerns. This free guide offers expert advice on the issues that may arise when using in-game chat and lets you know how to safeguard the children in your care as they make use of this technology.

<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   | • Family Support Hub          |
| • Early Help Hub             | • Inclusion Support           |
| • Education Welfare          | • Parenting Team              |
| • Family Information Service | • 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.