



### 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-third 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 **Adverse Childhood Experiences** and their negative effect on young people. We also revisit **Sexting**; there is a useful video link which provides some strategies for parents to use when talking about this sensitive topic with their children.

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**

### Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs)

ACEs are "highly stressful, and potentially traumatic, events or situations that occur during childhood and/or adolescence. They can be a single event, or prolonged threats to, and breaches of, the young person's safety, security, trust or bodily integrity." (Young Minds, 2018). The impact of ACEs on a child's mental and physical health are long lasting.

Examples of ACEs:

- Physical abuse
- Sexual Abuse
- Emotional Abuse
- Living with someone who abused drugs
- Living with someone who abused alcohol
- Exposure to domestic violence
- Living with someone who has gone to prison
- Living with someone with serious mental illness
- Losing a parent through divorce, death or abandonment

For further information, please see [Adverse Childhood Experiences \(ACEs\) \[Video\]](#) | [ChildHub - Child Protection Hub](#)

If you have any concerns about the impact of ACEs on your child, please contact a member of the school's safeguarding team.

## Sexting

Sexting is the sending or posting of naked or semi-naked images, videos, or live streams by young people under the age of 18. This could be via social media, gaming platforms, chat apps, or forums. The reasons for taking and sharing naked and semi-naked images and videos are not always sexual or criminal. These images can be created and shared consensually by young people who are in relationships as well as those who are not.

In the UK the age of consent for sexual intercourse is 16. However, it is an offence to make, distribute, possess or show any indecent images of anyone aged under 18, even if the content was created with the consent of that young person.

Indecent images are defined as such if they meet the following criteria:

- nude or semi-nude sexual posing (e.g. displaying genitals and/or breasts or overtly sexual images of young people in their underwear)
- someone nude or semi-nude touching themselves in a sexual way
- any sexual activity involving a child
- someone hurting someone else sexually

## Talking to your child about sexting

It is important that we talk to our children about the risks of sexting, although it can be difficult to start these conversations. 'Amaze' has created a useful video – 'Sexting: What Should You Do?' which offers some advice: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RWxAimnKupE>

## What Parents & Educators Need to Know about Fake News & Scams

<https://nationalcollege.com/guides/fake-news-and-scams>

While misinformation and 'fake news' are well-known concerns online, it is also the case that scammers and other cyber-criminals can try to utilise this phony material to manipulate, frighten or otherwise persuade their victims into cooperating. With constantly evolving scams and such a high volume of misinformation online, it is vital that parents and educators know how to safeguard the children in their care against these kinds of tactics. Our guide breaks down the most prominent ways in which scammers attempt to use 'fake news' to their advantage as well as how to protect youngsters from being manipulated by such techniques.

<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.