



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 thirty-second 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 focus on reports from different agencies about the **impact of domestic abuse** and also how parents/professionals can **talk to children about sexual abuse**. We also highlight **key changes to the Online Safety Act**.

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

The impact of domestic abuse

In association with Refuge, the UK Trauma Council has summarised the findings of 10 research projects about the impact of domestic abuse on children and young people.

The report rounds up the potential trauma resulting from domestic abuse, including the wide range of social, emotional and psychological challenges for children and young people, plus the factors that can help to mitigate harm.

[Childhood Trauma and Domestic Abuse Research Round Up - UK Trauma Council](#)

Talking about child sexual abuse

The CSA Centre has published a new edition of their guidance, 'Communicating with Children' which provides parents and professionals with the knowledge and confidence to talk with children about sexual abuse.

This edition provides new guidance for professionals about how to support children with a variety of different communication needs. It aims to help professionals enable more children to communicate about what has happened to them, in a way that works best for them.

[Communicating with children | CSA Centre](#)

The Online Safety Act

Changes to the Online Safety Act are intended to create a safer online environment for all users.

Additional protections for children

The act now includes firmer expectations on social media platforms to protect children from viewing harmful content. Platforms are legally bound to act swiftly to block and remove illegal content/material.

Enhanced adult controls

Adults will have more control over the content they see online. The act now requires platforms to provide clear options for users to manage their exposure to potentially harmful content.

Accountability and transparency

Social media companies are required to provide greater transparency about the content on their platforms.

Ofcom's expanded role

Ofcom, the independent regulator, has been given broad powers to enforce compliance with the new safety framework. Ofcom's role includes risk assessments, publishing codes of practice and guidance, as well as enforcing regulations to ensure platforms conform to the new standards.

Phased implementation

Ofcom is taking a phased approach to implementing the provisions of the act. This includes publishing codes of practice and guidance in three phases: illegal harms duties, child safety duties, and transparency/user empowerment duties. If you want to read more about these changes, follow the link below.

[Online Safety Act: explainer - GOV.UK](#)

What Parents and Educators Need to Know about Zepeto

<https://nationalcollege.com/guides/zepeto>

Zepeto is a hugely popular social app where users create custom avatars to explore virtual worlds, play games and chat with others. With millions of active players worldwide, it offers an engaging digital experience, but not without its concerns, especially for younger users.

Zepeto's vibrant world of custom outfits, interactive spaces and daily challenges might appeal to children but those same features come with risks. From unfiltered chats and stranger danger to the temptation of in-app purchases there is plenty for parents to be aware of.

NOS have created this free guide offering parents and educators an overview of the associated risks of Zepeto.

<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).

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.