



**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-l@goldington.beds.sch.uk](mailto:mccarthy-l@goldington.beds.sch.uk)

[gardnerl@goldington.beds.sch.uk](mailto: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 thirty-sixth 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 **Homophobic language** and **school avoidance**. We constantly promote acceptance of people's differences through our curriculum and wider assembly programme.

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**

**Homophobic language**

Homophobic language are terms of abuse that are often directed towards the LGBT+ community. A Stonewall survey found the most common form of homophobic language used in schools is 'that's so gay' and 'you're so gay'. 99% of gay young people report hearing the casual use of these phrases regularly. These comments are often directed towards people who are actually, or perceived to be, gay. Although, they are most often used to mean that something is bad or rubbish, with no actual link to sexual orientation at all.

Whilst often dismissed as banter, the unchallenged use of 'gay' as a casual derogatory term has a hugely negative effect on gay young people's self-esteem. The Stonewall survey also found that nearly half of LGBT pupils including 64% of trans pupils – are bullied for being LGBTQ+ in Britain's schools. Goldington Academy is committed to ensuring that we celebrate diversity and promote acceptance and will always challenge any homophobic views.

All staff know to challenge the use of homophobic language and Goldington Academy pupils know that homophobic language will not be tolerated. We also tackle these views through our Life Skills curriculum and through our assembly programme.

## What Parents and Educators Need to Know about School Avoidance

<https://nationalcollege.com/guides/school-avoidance>

School avoidance is a sharply increasing phenomenon, with tangible negative effects on children's wellbeing and education. The factors that come together to make a child consciously avoid seeing their classmates and teachers can be much more complicated than is often assumed. A careful, mindful approach from parents, carers and educators is required to help children return to an environment that may be causing them intense anxiety.

Our guide aims to help you understand the issue of school avoidance, not only its potential roots and ramifications, but also what you can do to help children and young people navigate these obstacles and continue their education.

<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.

## What Parents & Educators Need to know about Making Friends Online

[What You Need to Know: Making Friends Online | Free Guide](#)

As technology becomes increasingly embedded in young people's lives, it is common for them to form friendships entirely online. These connections can provide companionship and community — but they also bring potential dangers that parents and educators need to be aware of.

From online grooming and privacy breaches to exposure to upsetting content, meeting people on the internet isn't without risk. This guide explains the possible hazards of online friendships and gives parents and educators essential advice on helping children build safe, positive relationships online.

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## 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.