



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:

Mr Neil Davies

daviesn@goldington.beds.sch.uk

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

Miss Claire Johnstone

jonstonec@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 James Pinkney

pinkneykj@goldington.beds.sch.uk

Head of Year Eleven:

Mr Liam Hall

halll@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

Firstly, a very warm welcome to all pupils returning to and starting at Goldington Academy this September. We look forward to working with pupils and their families throughout the coming year.

Welcome to the first edition of the safeguarding newsletter from the Goldington Academy Safeguarding Team for the academic year 2025-26. The newsletter is designed to support parents in deepening their understanding of safeguarding issues that may affect young people. Each newsletter will focus on different safeguarding risks including an E-Safety risk.

Safeguarding children is the action of promoting the welfare of children and protecting them from harm. Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility. Every single person who comes into contact with children and families has a role to play. You will see on the left of the page who to contact if you have concerns about a child's safety or welfare, however all Goldington Academy staff are trained in safeguarding.

The focus of this edition is *Keeping Children Safe In Education 2025* from the Department of Education and advice for parents/carers and the importance of ensuring good school attendance throughout the year.

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

Keeping Children Safe In Education 2025

Keeping Children Safe in Education is a statutory Department for Education document that all schools are required to follow when carrying out their duties to safeguard and promote the welfare of children. It covers many aspects of safeguarding, including different forms of abuse, early help processes, safe-recruitment, how concerns must be reported and the role of the Designated Safeguarding Leads. Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children is defined as:

Protecting children from maltreatment, preventing impairment of children's mental and physical health or development, ensuring that children grow up in circumstances consistent with the provision of safe and effective care, taking action to enable all children to have the best possible outcomes.

Click here for the full document:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/68add931969253904d155860/Keeeping_children_safe_in_education_from_1_September_2025.pdf

School Attendance

Being with teachers and friends in a school environment is the best way for pupils to learn and reach their potential. Time in school keeps children safe and provides access to extra-curricular opportunities and pastoral care. [Evidence](#) shows that the students with the highest attendance throughout their time in school gain the best GCSE and A Level results.

Every moment in school counts, and days missed add up quickly. For example, a child in Year Ten who is absent for three days over a half term could miss 15 lessons in total. The higher a pupil's attendance, the more they are likely to learn, and the better they are likely to perform in exams and formal assessments.

Parents must ensure that their child/children attend every day that the school is open, unless:

- The child is too ill to attend.
- Parents have asked in advance and been given permission by the school for your child to be absent on a specific day due to exceptional circumstances.
- The child cannot go to school on a specific day because they are observing a religious event.
- The local authority is responsible for arranging your child's transport to school and it is not available or has not.
- Our attendance target at Goldington Academy is 96%.

Back to School Online Safety Tips for Children

[Free Online Safety Guide | Back to School](#)

Wow, it is September already! The month when autumn officially starts and, oh yes, the beginning of a new school year. Every cloud has a silver lining though! Another term means new friends to make, different stuff to learn, fresh online trends to jump on and exciting new games to play on your phone, computer or console. We've compiled a list of our top tips to ensure that whether you are going online to chat, research things or just have fun, you can do it safely.

In our guide, you will find a number of tips such as how to spot fake news, reporting something offensive online and how to deal with bullies.

<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.