



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

johnstonec@goldington.beds.sch.uk

Head of Year Eight:

Mrs Louise McCarthy-Gardner

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

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

Welcome to the thirteenth 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, the main focus is on **Financially motivated sexual extortion** and **potentially dangerous Christmas gifts** listed by the Child Accident Prevention Trust.

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

Financially motivated sexual extortion

The criminal practice of extorting individuals after coercing them to provide self-explicit material is commonly known as 'sextortion'. The practice's technical name 'Financially Motivated Sexual Extortion' or FMSE, is an increasingly prevalent form of online child sexual abuse. What started as simple money exchanges, now include cryptocurrency seizures and pre-paid gift cards as forms of criminal redemption.

Males aged 14 to 17 are overwhelmingly represented in cases of this nature. Often, they will be enticed by the promise of seeing sexually explicit images, before the rug is pulled and the scam put into operation. As a result, the victims have been tricked or groomed over a period of time. With the rise of AI, this practice is becoming more complex with false explicit images actually changing hands, in exchange for a real image of the target. CEOP is highly concerned with this practice and has authored a guide page on what to do. If interested, please follow the link below:

<https://www.ceopeducation.co.uk/parents/articles/FMSE>

Taken from Andrew Hall Safeguarding Briefing

Potentially dangerous Christmas gifts

No doubt children all over the country are now looking forward to celebrating Christmas this year and receiving gifts of all kinds. However, not all gifts are created equally.

Now more than ever our Christmas shopping is done online from a frequently varied list of sellers. This may include imitation manufacturers, sellers' platforms like Etsy and third-party small businesses that use known provider logistics services. We are trusting people from all corners of the globe to manufacture and deliver our Christmas goods to the standards of production that we are used to when buying goods in the UK.

Unfortunately, this is far from guaranteed. Production firms abroad or within a 'cottage industry' may not have the strict manufacturing standards applied in the UK, or expected as industry standard. The Child Accident Prevention Trust has published a list of gifts for young people that are most likely to cause accidents. Please follow the link below for more information.

<https://capt.org.uk/8-dangerous-gifts-to-avoid-this-christmas/>

Top Tips for Dealing with Traumatic and Challenging Events

[Top Tips for Dealing with Traumatic and Challenging Events](#)

When children and young people experience traumatic or difficult life events, their emotional world can be shaken, and the impact may show up in their behaviour, mood or relationships. Whether it is bereavement, a family breakdown or witnessing something distressing, the support of trusted adults can be key in helping them feel safe again. This guide looks at how to create a nurturing environment to help young people process difficult feelings.

It also shares clear, actionable strategies to promote recovery, from building emotional literacy and creating a predictable routine to recognising signs that further help may be needed. Sensitive language, patience and presence all play a part in empowering children to move forward at their own pace. With the right support, they can rebuild a sense of security and resilience.

<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
- 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.