



### 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:

Mr Neil Davies

[daviesn@goldington.beds.sch.uk](mailto:daviesn@goldington.beds.sch.uk)

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

Miss Claire Johnstone

[jonstonec@goldington.beds.sch.uk](mailto:jonstonec@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 James Pinkney

[pinkneykj@goldington.beds.sch.uk](mailto:pinkneykj@goldington.beds.sch.uk)

#### Head of Year Eleven:

Mr Liam Hall

[halll@goldington.beds.sch.uk](mailto: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](http://www.goldington.beds.sch.uk)

Dear Parents/Carers

Welcome to the 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, the main focus is on **Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)** and **Sharing Nude Images**. All of our staff are trained to recognise the possible indicators of FGM and how to report it. We educate our pupils stay safe online through our Computing and Life Skills curriculums and use external visitors e.g. Bedfordshire Police to reinforce this learning.

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**

### Female Genital Mutilation

Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) comprises all procedures involving the partial or total removal of the external female genitalia or any other injury to the female genital organs for non-medical reasons. FGM is sometimes known as 'female genital cutting' or female circumcision and is often performed by people with no medical training, using instruments such as knives, scalpels, scissors, glass or razor blades. Children are rarely given anaesthetic or antiseptic treatment. FGM is used to control female sexuality and can cause long-lasting damage to physical and emotional health.

The World Health Organisation estimates that three million girls are victim to some form of the procedure every year in Africa alone. It is practised in 28 countries in Africa and some in the Middle East and Asia. FGM is child abuse in the UK and violates a child's right to life.

It is an offence for UK nationals or permanent UK residents to carry out FGM abroad or to assist the carrying out of FGM abroad.

If you are concerned that a child may be at risk of FGM, you can call the NSPCC FGM helpline on 0800 028 3550 for more information or email them at [fgmhelp@nspcc.org.uk](mailto:fgmhelp@nspcc.org.uk).



## Sharing nude images

### The social consequences of sharing nudes

Girls face more consequences for sharing nudes than boys. Research shows that girls are looked down upon when a nude is leaked and it damages their reputation; but for boys, however unfairly, it seems the opposite is true – it can be a source of validation. A recent study found that **60% of young people think that a girl would lose social status** if a nude image of her was shared on Whatsapp, while **60% thought that a boy would gain social status** in the same situation.

It is important to be aware of the fact that the social consequences for a male or a female child may be different, and to be sensitive to these. You can also use your proactive conversations with your child to challenge damaging and unfair gender stereotypes around sharing intimate images.



### The legal consequences of sharing nudes

A nude image of an under-18 is classed as child abuse imagery. And while it is important that children sharing nudes are not criminalised, it needs to be addressed.

Where there is no evidence of exploitation or grooming it is unlikely that a child would be prosecuted for sharing a nude – particularly if it is a first offence. Police may investigate but can choose to record the incident in a way that does not have a negative impact on the children involved. More info can be found on [Parents Protect](#).

## Top tips from 16–21 year-olds

### Be proactive

- 1 Start speaking to your child about the risks of sharing pictures when you first give them a phone. You can do this in an age-appropriate way using the [ThinkUKnow](#) videos.
- 2 Explain to your child early on that they may be sent naked pictures by someone else. The number one rule is that they don't send it on to anyone else. If it upsets them they should speak to you so you can look after them and help them to report it.
- 3 Don't assume your child is not involved. Sharing nudes is a very common part of growing up for some young people – although it shouldn't be. Be prepared to support them if something goes wrong.

### If your child tells you that they have shared someone else's nudes:

- 1 Be very clear that pressuring someone for anything is wrong, especially something as personal as a naked picture. Have a conversation about how and why it happened.
- 2 Our young people think vulnerability is important in this situation. Remind your child we all make mistakes, and the important thing is to be honest and responsible after it has happened.
- 3 Seek advice from the safeguarding lead at your child's school. More information on how the school is likely to manage the situation can be found [here](#).

### If your child tells you that a nude image of them has been shared:

- 1 Teens want parents to offer practical advice (e.g. helping them contact tech platforms to stop images circulating.) Contact: [Childline/NSP Report Remove](#) and make a report to [CCPA/CLEO](#) if you think the image has been shared with an adult. More advice on how to respond can be found on [Internet Matters](#).
- 2 Seek advice from the safeguarding lead at your child's school. More information on how the school is likely to manage the situation can be found [here](#).
- 3 Teens want parents to be emotionally supportive. The young person is in a vulnerable state, and they are likely to be feeling fear and embarrassment among other emotions. They need to hear that you love them and that you will work things out with them.

The sharing of nude images continues to be an area of risk for young people across the globe. Peer pressure, grooming and natural inquisitiveness can lead to young people sharing images with others that they then later regret.

In addition to the advice above, please see a link to the 'Think before you share' website below, which has some useful advice for parents and carers, as well as young people.

[Need Help with Nudes? Think Before You Share Nudes Online](#)

## How to Set up Parental Controls for iPhone Apps

[Free Guide | Parental Controls for iPhone Apps](#)

Most smartphones allow parents and carers to choose which apps and features appear on their child's device and which ones do not, also preventing young people from buying and downloading anything that is unsuitable for their age. Our #WakeUpWednesday guides to parental controls for managing apps on iPhones will help you to reduce the chance of your child using a game or app that might not be appropriate for their age. In our guide, you will find tips relating to built-in apps, the game centre and app store purchases.

<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.