Dear Parents/Carers

Welcome to the third 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 **'child-on-child abuse'** with a specific focus on **bullying**. We teach our students how to keep themselves safe and how to report child-on-child abuse through our Life Skills curriculum and through our assembly programme. We have a number of initiatives in school to prevent bullying e.g. student led 'Anti-bullying ambassadors'. Our Anti-bullying and Child Protection policies can be found on our website.

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

Child-on-child abuse

Child-on-child abuse is any form of physical, sexual, emotional and financial abuse, and coercive control, exercised between children.

This may include:

- bullying, including cyberbullying, prejudice-based bullying
- any form of physical abuse
- Harmful sexual behaviours or sexual harassment, such as sexual comments, remarks, jokes and online sexual harassment
- causing another child engage in sexual activity without consent, consensual and non-consensual sharing of nude and semi-nude images and or videos

Downplaying sexual harassment and abuse can lead to a culture of unacceptable behaviours and an unsafe environment for children. We take a zero-tolerance approach to sexual harassment and abuse at Goldington Academy and never dismiss this type of behaviour as "just banter", "just having a laugh", "part of growing up" or "boys being boys".

If you have any concerns about child-on-child abuse or harm, please speak to a member of staff or the safeguarding team.

Bullying

Bullying is a form of child-on-child abuse and can be defined as "behaviour by an individual or a group, repeated over time that intentionally hurts another individual either physically or emotionally".

Bullying can include name calling, taunting, mocking, making offensive comments, kicking, hitting, taking belongings, producing offensive graffiti, gossiping, excluding people from groups and spreading hurtful and untruthful rumours.

- This includes the same unacceptable behaviours expressed online, sometimes called online or cyberbullying. This can include: sending offensive, upsetting and inappropriate messages by phone, text, instant messenger, through gaming, websites, social media sites and apps and sending offensive or degrading photos or videos.

- Bullying is recognised by the school as being a form of child-on-child abuse. It can be emotionally abusive and can cause severe and adverse effects on children's emotional health.

Bullying is not a one-off fall-out or a disagreement between people, and it is important to recognise this. This does not mean that school will not do all it can to resolve fall-outs between pupils.

At Goldington Academy, we have a number of reporting methods for pupils and parents. These include an online reporting tool (along with a CEOP link to report cyberbullying), anti-bullying boxes in every form room, anti-bullying ambassadors, email access ,etc. We encourage pupils and parents to use these tools to report concerns about bullying at the earliest opportunity.

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about TikTok

What you Need to Know: TikTok | Free Online Safety Guide

Among children, and especially teenagers, TikTok boasts approximately 220 million users, providing a near-endless reel of short clips intended to entertain, educate and more. However, along with its enormous userbase comes a significant number of possible risks: Ofcom have dubbed it the most likely app on which teen users would potentially suffer harm.
With the platform reaching astronomical levels of success among the younger generation, it is vitally important for parents and educators to understand the risks it poses. This guide lets you know about the most prominent potential dangers associated with TikTok and offers expert advice on how to safeguard youngsters who are navigating the site.

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.