



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-l@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 fifth 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 **Forced Marriage** and **Parent Support Courses and Workshops**, which are run by the Early Help Team from the Local Authority.

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

Forced marriage

There is a clear distinction between a forced marriage and an arranged marriage. In arranged marriages, the families of both spouses take a leading role in arranging the marriage, but the choice of whether or not to accept the arrangement still remains with the prospective spouses. However, in forced marriage, one or both spouses do not consent to the marriage but are coerced into it. Duress can include physical, psychological, financial, sexual and emotional pressure. In the cases of some vulnerable adults who lack the capacity to consent, coercion is not required for a marriage to be forced.

The UK Government regards forced marriage as an abuse of human rights and a form of domestic abuse, and where it affects children and young people, child abuse. It is a criminal offence. It can happen to both women and men, although many of the reported cases involve young women and girls aged between 16 and 25. There is no "typical" victim of forced marriage. Some may be over or under 18 years of age, some may have a disability, some may have young children and some may also be spouses from overseas.

If you know someone who is in danger of being forced to marry, the contacts below may be of use.

Telephone: +44 (0) 20 7008 0151

Email: fmufco.gov.uk

Email for outreach work: fmoutreach@fco.gov.uk

Early Help Parent Support Courses and Workshops

Please see below a link to the parent support courses and workshops offer being run by the Bedford Borough Early Help Team until the end of December 2025. The support course and workshops provide parents with practical advice and strategies to help manage the behaviour of children at home. Parents can self-enrol on the courses and workshops by scanning the QR codes. The courses on offer are:

Triple P - Triple P is the flexible, practical way to develop skills, strategies and confidence to handle any parenting situation. When it comes to raising children and teenagers, everyone has an opinion. Early Help 'Triple P' gives parents simple tips to help manage the big and small problems of family life.

Stepping Stones Triple P - Stepping Stones Triple P has been developed for parents of children with a developmental disability or additional need. Because it is based on Triple P's proven parenting strategies, it gives you ways to deal with the kinds of childhood behaviour problems and issues that can make family life stressful.

Strengthening families - This is a programme for parents and children aged 10 to 14 to come to together. The programme aims to help families to work together to solve problems, create and sustain a positive relationship and have fun together as a family. It supports parents to manage misbehaviour, by using appropriate rewards and consequences, to encourage, and support their children to make good choices and decisions.

Whose In Charge - This is a 6 week programme to support parents where their children are especially challenging (violent/aggressive) and all the usual strategies for managing behaviour do not seem to work.

[Early Help Parent Support Courses](#)

Week 5 - Top Tips for Adopting Safe & Healthy Online Habits

[Free E-Safety Guide | Safe & Healthy Online Habits](#)

Every year, Comic Relief goes all out to help people, both in the UK and internationally, who are going through a tough time. In our area of specialism, we at National Online Safety are acutely aware that for children and young people in particular, many of those difficult moments increasingly originate from and unfold in the digital world. From inappropriate content, to the toxic behaviour of others, online harms can do long-lasting damage. That is why we are passionate about helping this new generation to build their digital resilience, equipping them to deal with digital dangers. This #WakeUpWednesday guide has a selection of tips for encouraging safe and healthy online habits.

In this guide, we have compiled a list of useful suggestions which could help you and your family strike the right balance and build digital 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.