



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.bedsch.uk

Designated Safeguarding Lead

Mr Will Atkinson

atkinsonw@goldington.bedsch.uk

Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead

Head of Year Seven:

Mrs Anthea Jones

jonesa@goldington.bedsch.uk

School Safeguarding Governor:

Mr Neil Davies

daviesn@goldington.bedsch.uk

Special Educational Needs &/or Disabilities Coordinator:

Miss Claire Johnstone

jonstonec@goldington.bedsch.uk

Head of Year Eight:

Mrs Louise McCarthy-Gardner

mccarthy-gardnerl@goldington.bedsch.uk

Head of Year Nine:

Mr Michael Lincoln

lincolnm@goldington.bedsch.uk

Head of Year Ten:

Mr James Pinkney

pinkneykj@goldington.bedsch.uk

Head of Year Eleven:

Mr Liam Hall

halll@goldington.bedsch.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.bedsch.uk)

Dear Parents/Carers

Welcome to the sixth 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 information from **Bedfordshire Police around registering your child's mobile phone and reporting lost property and knife crime**. We educate our pupils about E-Safety and the dangers, risks and consequences of carrying knives through our Life Skills and assembly programme.

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

Information from Bedfordshire Police

Bedfordshire Police have asked us to share the following information to help protect students' personal belongings and improve the chances of recovering lost or stolen items:

Register Your Child's Mobile Phone – Immobilise

This free service helps police identify and return lost or stolen phones and other valuables. By registering your child's device, you are helping protect their property and increasing the chances of recovery if it goes missing. The website also offers helpful advice on keeping devices safe and secure.

It only takes a few minutes to register, and it is completely free, please take a moment to do this and help keep your child's phone safe.

www.immobilise.com/help/registermobilephone

Lost Property – Report My Loss

This free service allows you to register lost items, which can then be accessed by police and other agencies to help recover them. You will also receive a reference number that can be used for insurance claims or replacement processes.

www.reportmyloss.com/uk.

Knife crime

With a steady rise in knife related crimes being reported over recent years, there is a concern that it is fast becoming an epidemic across the country, specifically impacting on young people, families and communities. National and local research continues to determine root causes of why young people are carrying knives. Although not exhaustive, below are some common factors known to influence young people to carry knives:

- County lines – organised drug networks
- Gang affiliation – protection/status
- Media attention/glamorisation
- Fear of crime – being attacked/self-protection
- Victim of bullying – self-protection
- Peer pressure

The common factor is the 'vicious circle' young people find themselves in, for example in a gang/drug network it is an expectation for gang members to be armed: 'fear or be feared', 'live or die' regarding fear of crime and thinking 'I need to defend myself'.

The biggest risk is that if a young person carries a knife, they will almost definitely use it in situations where they feel the need to protect themselves, commit a crime, cause fear or reinforce their status/reputation.

Further information can be found at: <https://benkinsella.org.uk/resources-for-parents/>

Week 6 - Smartphone Safety Tips for Young People

[Smartphone Safety Tips | Free Online Safety Guide](#)

According to Ofcom, 69% of under-18s use a smartphone as their main method of going online. Additionally, 49% of children use them for online gaming – putting smartphones only behind consoles (59%) as the device of choice for playing games on. Most people would not require such statistical evidence, however, to acknowledge the huge importance of phones to young people.

That makes it essential to help children use their phones responsibly and, above all, safely. From passcodes to parental controls, and from screen time to scams, our #WakeUpWednesday guide has the essential advice.

<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.