



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 seventh 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 **Vaping** and **Young Carers**. We educate our pupils on the dangers of drugs through our Life Skills curriculum and provide support in school and externally to our pupils who have a caring role at home.

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

Vaping

It is an unfortunate truth that some young people now use vapes regularly. We are aware that some shops are selling vapes to under age children.

What are vapes?

Vapes are electronic devices that heat a liquid and produce an Aerosol or mix of small particles in the air. They come in many shapes and sizes. Most have a battery, a heating element and a place to hold a liquid. Some e-cigarettes look like regular cigarettes or cigars. They also look like USB flash drives, pens and other everyday items.

How do they work?

They produce an aerosol by heating a liquid that usually contains nicotine, flavourings and other chemicals that help to make the aerosol. This liquid is sometimes called 'e-juice', 'eliquid', 'vape juice' or 'vape liquid.' As well as the flavoured liquids, E-cigarette devices can be used to deliver marijuana and other drugs. It has been reported liquid drugs such as LSD, GHB and Ketamine are being vaped as well. Nicotine is highly addictive and can harm adolescent brain development, which continues into the early to mid-20s. For more information and advice click link below:

<https://parents.actionforchildren.org.uk/behaviour/challenging-behaviour/im-worried-about-my-child-vaping/>

Young carers

A young carer is someone under eighteen years of age who helps look after someone in their family, or a friend, who is ill, disabled or misuses drugs or alcohol. Young carers might undertake activities in the home such as:

- Practical tasks, such as cooking, housework and shopping.
- Physical care, such as helping someone out of bed.
- Emotional support, such as talking to someone who is distressed.
- Personal care, such as helping someone dress.
- Managing the family budget and collecting prescriptions.
- Helping to give medicine.
- Helping someone communicate.
- Looking after brothers and sisters

Being a young carer can have a big impact on the things that are important to growing up, for example it can affect a young person's health, social life and self-confidence. Many young carers struggle to juggle their education and caring which can cause pressure and stress.

If you feel that your child may be an unidentified young carer, or a young carer needing more support, please do not hesitate to contact a member of the school's safeguarding team. More information can be found at [Young Carers - Carers In Bedfordshire \(carersinbeds.org.uk\)](http://carersinbeds.org.uk)

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about School Avoidance

[What You Need to Know about School Avoidance](#)

School avoidance is a sharply increasing phenomenon, with tangible negative effects on children's wellbeing and education. The factors that come together to make a child consciously avoid seeing their classmates and teachers can be much more complicated than is often assumed. A careful, mindful approach from parents, carers and educators is required to help children return to an environment that may be causing them intense anxiety.

Our guide aims to help you understand the issue of school avoidance, not only its potential roots and ramifications, but also what you can do to help children and young people navigate these obstacles and continue their education.

<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:

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| • 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.