

Safeguarding @ Goldington Academy

Week 08 – November 26

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
johnstonec@goldington.beds.sch.uk

Head of Year Eight:
Mr Michael Lincoln
lincolnm@goldington.beds.sch.uk

Head of Year Nine:
Mrs Louise McCarthy-Gardner
mccarthy-gardnerl@goldington.beds.sch.uk

Head of Year Ten:
Mr Liam Hall
halll@goldington.beds.sch.uk

Head of Year Eleven:
Mr James Pinkney
pinkneyj@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

Welcome to the eighth 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, we focus on **child-on-child** abuse and **attendance**. We have number of reporting systems in school for pupils and parents to report concerns of any kind.

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 sexual abuse

In June 2021, Ofsted carried out a rapid review into child-on-child sexual abuse in schools. The review included visits to 32 schools and colleges. In these, Ofsted spoke to over 900 children and young people about the prevalence of child-on-child sexual harassment and sexual violence, including online.

The findings were as follows: *girls told us that sexual harassment and online sexual abuse, such as being sent unsolicited explicit sexual material and being pressured to send nude pictures ('nudes'), are much more prevalent than adults realise. For example, nearly 90% of girls, and nearly 50% of boys, said being sent explicit pictures or videos of things they did not want to see happens a lot or sometimes to them or their peers. Children and young people told us that sexual harassment occurs so frequently that it has become 'commonplace'. For example, 92% of girls, and 74% of boys, said sexist name-calling happens a lot or sometimes to them or their peers. The frequency of these harmful sexual behaviours means that some children and young people consider them normal.*

When we asked children and young people where sexual violence occurred, they typically talked about unsupervised spaces outside of school, such as parties or parks without adults present, although some girls told us they also experienced unwanted touching in school corridors.

Goldington Academy will take appropriate action in response to any incidents of child-on-child sexual abuse. Please contact a member of the safeguarding team regarding any concerns about child-on-child sexual abuse in school.

School attendance

As the weather turns cold, there is no doubt that seasonal illnesses are out in force. However, we ask that parents and children are mindful that school attendance is key to learning and that minor illnesses can be managed in school. Please see below some useful information from Bedford Borough about school attendance:

Please see School attendance | Bedford Borough Council

Respiratory infections including coronavirus (COVID-19)	Individuals should not attend if they have a high temperature and are unwell. Individuals who have a positive test result for COVID-19 should not attend the setting for 3 days after the day of the test.	Individuals with mild symptoms such as runny nose, and headache who are otherwise well can continue to attend their setting.
Diarrhoea and vomiting	Individuals can return 48 hours after diarrhoea and vomiting have stopped.	If a particular cause of the diarrhoea and vomiting is identified, there may be additional exclusion advice, for example E. coli STEC and hep A.

For more information see Managing outbreaks and incidents

What parents & educators need to know about AI chatbots

Free Online Safety Guide | AI Chatbots

AI chatbots such as ChatGPT, Copilot, Gemini and My AI are becoming a familiar part of children's digital lives. This guide helps parents, carers and educators understand how these tools work, why young people find them so appealing and where their use can create safeguarding, learning and wellbeing concerns.

From misinformation and privacy issues to emotional dependency, academic dishonesty and over-reliance, this guide explores the key risks in a clear, accessible way. It also offers practical advice on starting conversations, checking settings and helping children think critically, so adults can support safe, balanced and informed use of AI.

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.