



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:

Mrs Louise McCarthy-Gardner

[mccarthy-](mailto:mccarthy-gardnerl@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

pinkneyj@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 eighteenth 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 the **children's commissioner for parents/carers** regarding screen time etc and **vaping**. We educate our pupils on the dangers of vaping and using drugs through our Life Skills curriculum and our wider 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

For Parents - What I Wish My Parents or Carers Knew

The Children's Commissioner has put together a fantastic guide for parents and carers on managing children's digital lives. At around 26 pages it goes into a lot of depth including:

- Screen time.
- When bad things happen.
- Artificial intelligence.
- Conversation starters.
- Actions to take checklist.

And much more.

['What I wish my parents or carers knew...': A guide for parents and carers on managing children's digital lives | Children's Commissioner for England](#)

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/>

Online Gaming: Moving from Policing to Parenting

<https://nationalcollege.com/guides/policing-vs-parenting-get-to-grips-with-gaming>

With concerns about escalating screen time, the impact of violence, unexpected costs and interloping strangers it can be tempting for parents and carers to lock down video games to limit possible negative impacts on youngsters. While some sensible boundaries are certainly helpful they are only a short-term solution for how we can guide children towards better gaming health.

In this guide, you will find tips on helping children to avoid potential risks stemming from screen time, simulated violence and interaction with strangers.

<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.