



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-gardnerl@goldington.beds.sch.uk

Head of Year Nine:

Mr Michael Lincoln

lincolnm@goldington.beds.sch.uk

Head of Year Ten:

Mr James Pinkney

pinknevj@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 twenty first 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 **school attendance** and on **young carers**. We support young carers in school through bespoke personalised support where necessary, regular drop ins with our pastoral mentor, developing supportive relationships with other young carers. **Mr Hall** is the school's lead person for young carers and works in conjunction with Mrs Sanger.

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

School attendance

Being with teachers and friends in a school environment is the best way for pupils to learn and reach their potential. Time in school keeps children safe and provides access to extra-curricular opportunities and pastoral care.

[Evidence](#) shows that the students with the highest attendance throughout their time in school gain the best GCSE and A-Level results.

Every moment in school counts, and days missed add up quickly. For example, a child in Year Ten who is absent for three days over a half term could miss 15 lessons in total. The higher a pupil's attendance, the more they are likely to learn and perform better in exams and formal assessments.

Parents must ensure that their child/children attend every day that the school is open, unless:

- The child is too ill to attend.
- Parents have asked in advance and been given permission by the school for their child to be absent on a specific day due to exceptional circumstances.
- The child cannot go to school on a specific day because they are observing a religious event.
- The local authority responsible for arranging their child's transport to school is not available or has not arrived

Our attendance target at Goldington Academy is 96%.

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)

How to manage what your children watch on TV

<https://nationalcollege.com/guides/how-to-manage-what-your-children-watch-on-tv>

Thanks to the digital world there are now many ways for your children to watch television: both the old-fashioned way on a big screen and via the internet with on-demand programming that can be streamed through phones and tablets. This makes monitoring and controlling what children are viewing even harder than ever, but with the help of our guide you can make TV safer for young ones and limit the amount that they can watch.

The guide provides tips on a number of potential risks such as unrated content, screen time and age-inappropriate material.

<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.