



### 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](mailto:safeguarding@goldington.beds.sch.uk)

#### Designated Safeguarding Lead

Mr Will Atkinson

[atkinsonw@goldington.beds.sch.uk](mailto:atkinsonw@goldington.beds.sch.uk)

#### Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead

Head of Year Seven:

Mrs Anthea Jones

[jonesa@goldington.beds.sch.uk](mailto:jonesa@goldington.beds.sch.uk)

#### School Safeguarding Governor:

Mr Neil Davies

[daviesn@goldington.beds.sch.uk](mailto:daviesn@goldington.beds.sch.uk)

#### Special Educational Needs &/or Disabilities Coordinator:

Miss Claire Johnstone

[johnstonec@goldington.beds.sch.uk](mailto:johnstonec@goldington.beds.sch.uk)

#### Head of Year Eight:

Mrs Louise McCarthy-Gardner

[mccarthy-gardnerl@goldington.beds.sch.uk](mailto:mccarthy-gardnerl@goldington.beds.sch.uk)

#### Head of Year Nine:

Mr Michael Lincoln

[lincolnm@goldington.beds.sch.uk](mailto:lincolnm@goldington.beds.sch.uk)

#### Head of Year Ten:

Mr James Pinkney

[pinknevj@goldington.beds.sch.uk](mailto:pinknevj@goldington.beds.sch.uk)

#### Head of Year Eleven:

Mr Liam Hall

[halll@goldington.beds.sch.uk](mailto: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](#)

Welcome to the thirty-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, we focus on **Knife Crime** and revisit **County Lines**. We educate our pupils on these topics and how to keep themselves safe through our Life Skills Curriculum and through our assembly programme. This week Bedfordshire Police delivered assemblies to KS3 with a focus on Operation Sceptre and Knife Crime

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**

### 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. Young people are sometimes exploited into crime, and this may involve carrying or 'holding' a knife or weapon for someone else.

Potential signs that a young person may be being exploited:

- Being secretive about where they are, what they are doing and who they are seeing
- Not letting parents look in bags, coat pockets or bedrooms
- Being secretive around their phone and not allowing parents access to it
- Being in possession of expensive items that they did not have before e.g., clothes, jewellery, etc
- Going missing for periods of time and being absent/truant from school
- Becoming isolated/distant from friends and family
- Having new marks or injuries and being secretive about how they were obtained

Approaching this type of conversation with children can often be difficult for parents. For information and advice please see:

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/support-for-parents/talking-about-difficult-topics/>

[Sceptre: Tackling knife crime, together | Bedfordshire Police](#)

## County Lines

County Lines is when gangs and organised crime groups exploit children to transport and sell drugs, normally between big cities where the exploiters are based to smaller towns, sometimes across county boundaries but also locally and within the borough. The children have dedicated mobile phone 'lines' for taking orders for drugs; children are used as they are less likely to be stopped by police, allowing adult dealers to avoid the risk of arrest.

County Lines is a form of criminal exploitation where a person or a group takes advantage of their contact with and influence over a young person to coerce or manipulate them to commit a criminal act. Children as young as six have been targeted by gangs for this purpose.

Young people may be recruited for County Lines and other forms of criminal exploitation by a process of grooming: at the targeting stage the exploiter befriends the young person and gains their trust. Young people may be recruited through social media and/or through their peer group. Parents of some of the victims of County Lines have reported a sudden change in their child's behaviour. Possible indicators are:

- Unexplained money, clothes or gifts
- Frequent, unexplained phone calls
- New friendship circle that involves older children or adults
- Not attending school
- Carrying weapons

For more information, please visit [Protecting children from county lines | NSPCC Learning](#) or speak to school staff.

## What parents & educators need to know about youth violence

[What You Need to Know: Youth Violence | Free E-Guide](#)

Youth violence impacts 1 in 4 children and young people in the UK, yet many parents and educators feel unsure how to respond. This guide breaks down the causes, risks and warning signs of violent behaviour in young people, helping adults feel more confident in supporting those at risk.

Drawing on expert insights from the Ben Kinsella Trust it explores why some young people may carry weapons, how violence is influenced by online content and what time and locations pose the greatest risk. It also highlights the importance of early intervention, emotional support and honest conversations.

<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.