



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

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](#)

Welcome to the thirty-second 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 **harmful sexual behaviour in children**. We educate our pupils on the signs of harmful sexual behaviours and how to report these 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

Harmful Sexual Behaviour in Children

This term is used to describe sexual behaviours shown by children that may be unsafe, inappropriate, upsetting or harmful to themselves or others. It is important to remember that children are still learning about bodies, privacy, relationships and boundaries.

What is harmful sexual behaviour?

Harmful sexual behaviour may include:

- touching another child in a way that makes them uncomfortable
- trying to look at private body parts using sexual words or language they do not fully understand
- showing sexual images to other children pressuring other children into games or behaviours they do not want to join in with
- copying behaviours they may have seen online, in videos, games or from older children.

How might children learn these behaviours?

- Children may copy things they have seen online, including through social media
- heard from older children
- watched in videos, films or games overheard in conversations been sent via group chats on gaming platforms
- been sent via group chats on gaming platforms

Young children are naturally curious, but they often do not fully understand what they are seeing or repeating.

Why talking about this matters

Children who understand body safety and boundaries are more likely to recognise when something feels wrong, speak up if they feel uncomfortable and understand when to raise their concerns with a trusted adult. These conversations also help children learn to appreciate and respect other people's personal space and boundaries, as well as understand the importance of consent. Talking about these topics is not about scaring young people or taking away their innocence. Instead, talking is about helping them stay safe, build healthy relationships and learn how to treat other people appropriately and with respect.

For further information, please visit the links below:

[What is harmful sexual behaviour - Lucy Faithfull Foundation](#)

[Understanding sexualised behaviour in children | NSPCC Learning](#)

What parents & educators need to know about Snapchat

[What You Need to Know about Snapchat | Free E-Safety guide](#)

With over 900 million monthly users, Snapchat continues to be a favourite among children and young people; however, with its ever-evolving features, the risks have evolved too. From AI-generated filters and chatbots, to disappearing messages and the Snap Map location-sharing tool, it is easy for children to stumble into unsafe territory. This guide breaks down the latest updates, including the Lens+ subscription service and web browser access.

We have also unpacked the risks of sextortion scams, overuse and inappropriate content that may slip through the app's moderation systems. With expert advice from online safety consultant Dr Claire Sutherland this guide is a must-read for anyone helping young people navigate Snapchat responsibly and confidently.

<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.