

Welcome to
Langley
Grammar
School

Parent Forum

Understanding the risks of knife crime

Understanding the risks of knife crime

We want to:

- inform you about the different ways children and young people can be drawn into knife crime;
- update you with national and local statistics concerning young people and knife crime;
- provide an overview of what we are doing in school to prevent children and young people becoming involved in knife crime;
- provide advice on how you can support your child;
- signpost you to further sources of advice and guidance.



National Picture

Knife Crime Data for England and Wales

7%

increase in Police-recorded offences involving a knife or sharp instrument in the last 12 months (to December 2023.)

49,489

Police-recorded offences involving a knife or sharp instrument in the year ending December 2023.

81%

increase in Police-recorded offences involving a knife or sharp instrument in the last 10 years (up to December 2023.)

Source: Office for National Statistics

National Picture

Knife Crime Statistics

81%

Knife crime has increased by 81% in ten years

82%

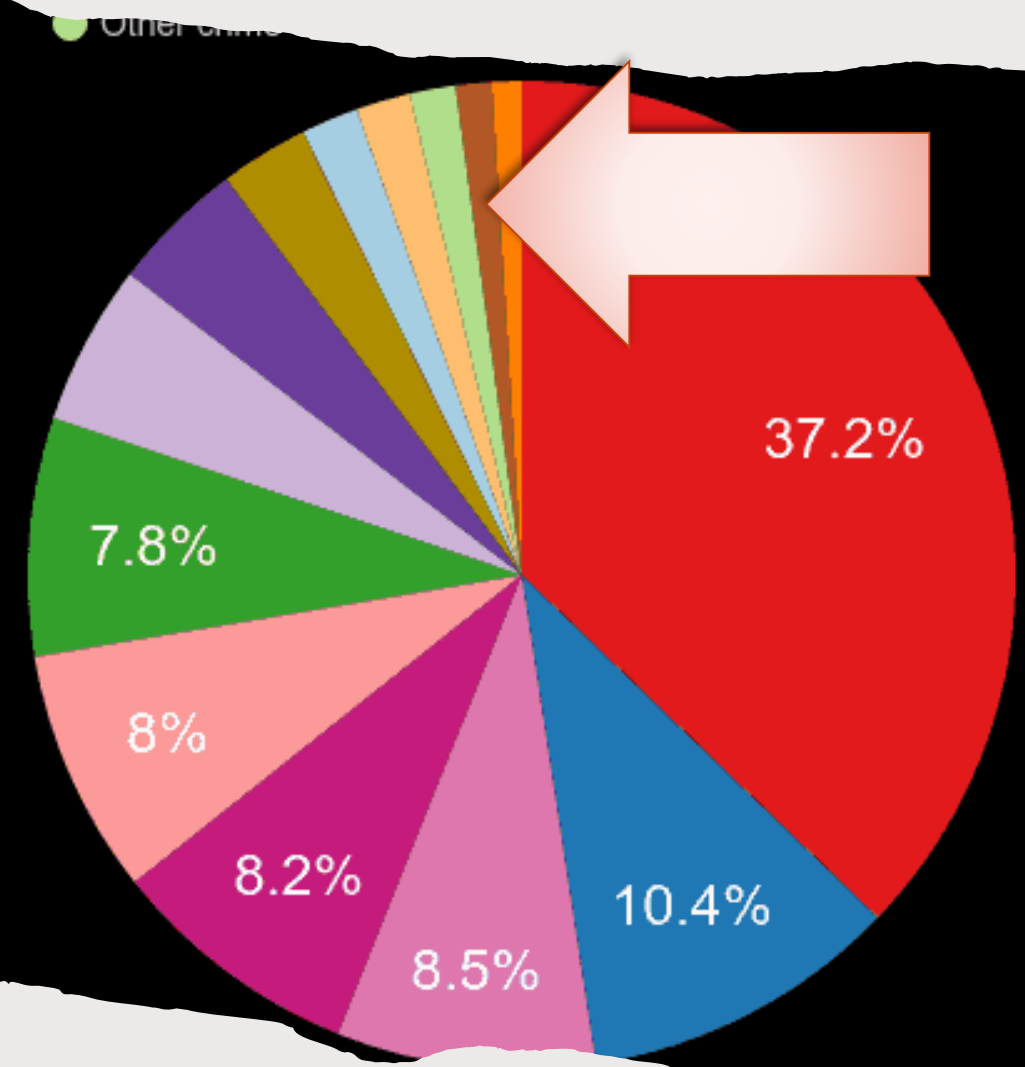
of Homicides among teenage victims involve a knife or sharp instrument.

2x

Teenagers are over twice as likely to be murdered with a knife than they were 10 years ago

Source: ONS

 The Ben Kinsella Trust
Stop Knife Crime



Slough

Possession of weapons?

Knife Angel



Month of action

- The Knife Angel visited Slough from 10 - 31 January 2023 to bring together:
- schools and parents
- voluntary sector organisations
- places of worship
- community groups
- local venues and businesses.

N

Slough's year of bloodshed: Police talk about knife crime

29th December 2023

COURT

CRIME

SLOUGH



Victims of knife crime in Slough, Timur, Kyron and Rifaqit (Image: TVP)



Why knives?

Motivation

Carry for offensive/defensive purposes. Expecting violence / fearful.
Clout.

Peer influences

If one member of a group of friends carry a knife, the rest are likely to follow. Normalised.

Contagion

New weapon introduced. Young people may start to 'level up' and fear they aren't keeping up.





Risk factors for knife crime and violence

Poor mental health
(depression, suicide,
self-harm)

Trauma

School exclusion

Victimisation (reactive
weapon carrying)

Peer influences

Environment
(deprivation, low
community cohesion)

Social inequity

Neurodiversity

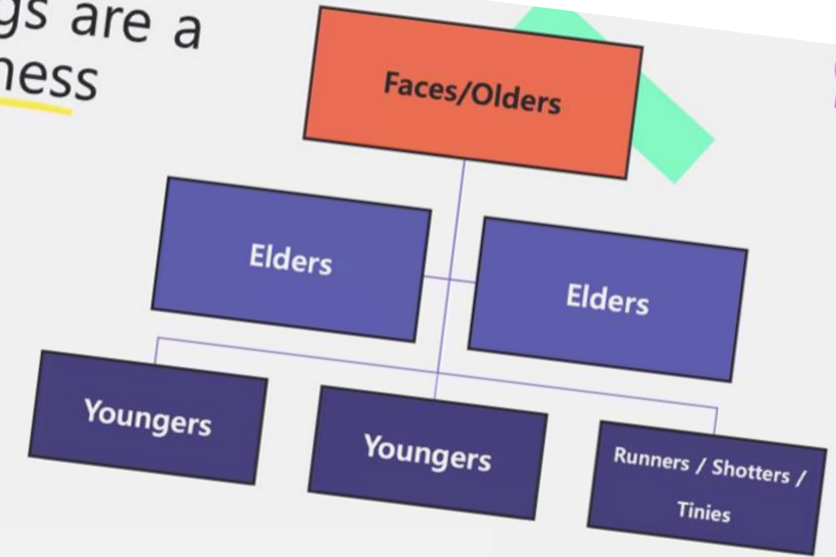


GANG



LIFE

Gangs are a
Business



Gang Definition

A Gang is a relatively durable, predominantly street-based group of young people who:

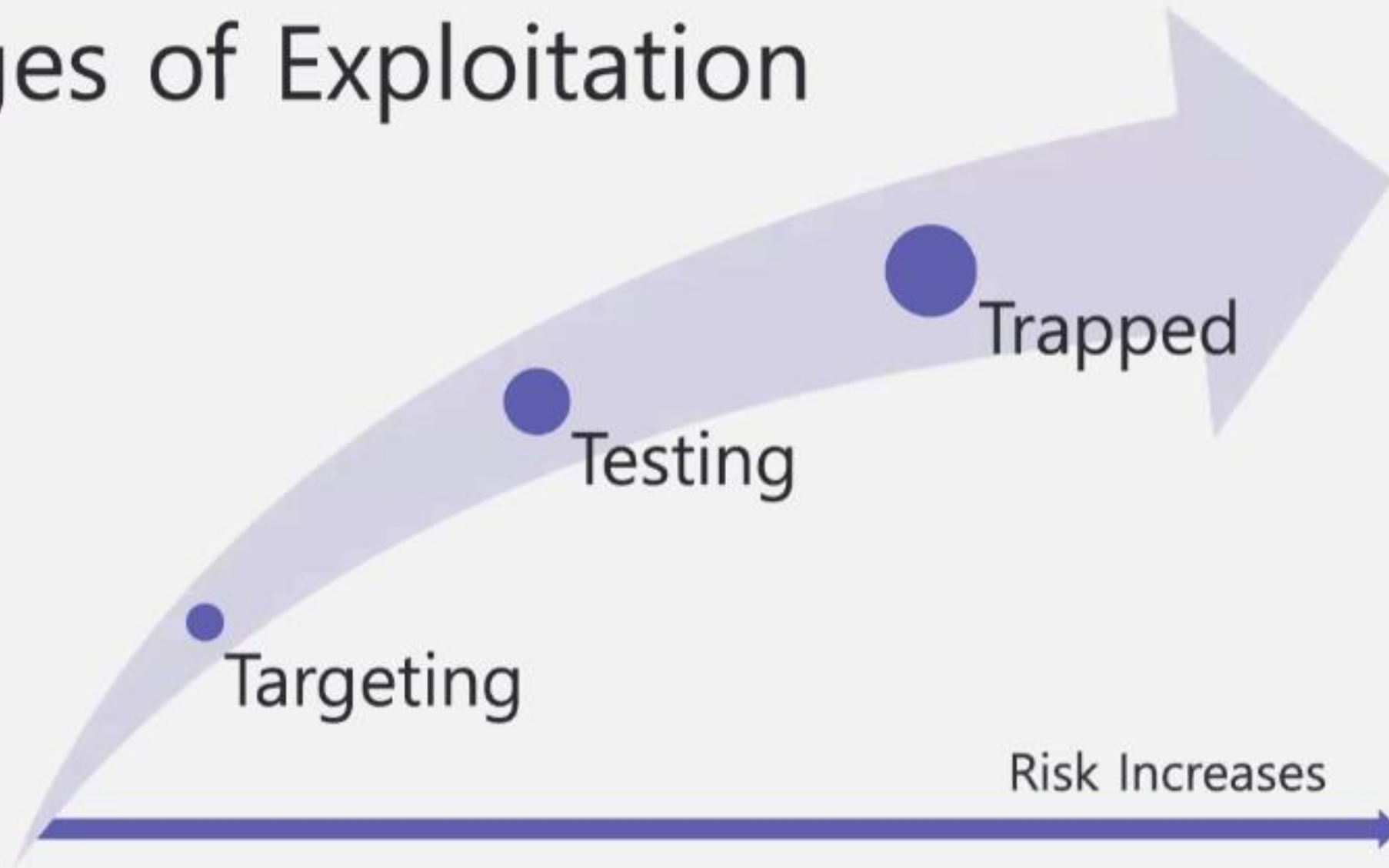
- (1) See themselves (and are seen by others) as a **discernible group**; and
- (2) Engage in a range of **criminal activity and violence**.

They may also have any or all of the following features:

- Identify with or lay claim over **territory**;
- Have some sort of identifying **structure feature**; and
- Are in **conflict** with other, similar gangs.



Stages of Exploitation



Gangs invade our flats to smoke drugs and make 'evil' rap music videos, complain residents on Milton Keynes estate

Up to 30 or 40 people at a time gather in communal areas and terrify families, it is claimed

Caversham stabbing: Two arrests after teenage boy seriously hurt

Two 16-year-old boys have been arrested on suspicion of attempted murder after a teenager was stabbed.

Olly Stephens: Concerns about killer's violent nature raised before killing

© 21 December 2022

Olly Stephens, 13, died after being stabbed twice at Bugs Bottom fields in Reading in January 2021.

The BBC has now learned that one of his killers was well known to children's services and his schools had repeatedly flagged up concerns about his violent tendencies, and the danger he posed to others.

Scores arrested in Thames Valley county lines crackdown

© 21 October 2023

Barton Oxford stabbing: Boy, 15, arrested in attempted murder investigation

© 8 March

Social Media and Young People



Young people are using their devices more than ever, with **TikTok** and **SnapChat** being the most popular social media platforms.

Algorithms on social media platforms determine what material is directed towards users based on demographics and user interaction.

Young people may be viewing material that depicts lifestyles that are **skewed from reality**; such as increased violence and harmful content that implies normality.

Gang-related drill music videos are often hyper-localized and give a tangible appeal to some young people.



Language



Trap

Food

Dip

Roadman

Bando

Bagging

Going
Country/Cunch/
OT

Op/Opps

Burner

Ramsey

P's

Merked

What can you do?



How can we prevent exploitation?

Connectedness to family / caring adults

Frequent positive shared activities with parents / carers

Positive engagement with teachers in supportive schooling environments

Involvement in safe and pro-social extra-curricular activities

Safe, stable housing

Having meaningful conversations

Find the right time. The conversation needs to take place **where they feel safest**, physically and emotionally.

Be available and **ready to listen**, as well as reassuring them that **they can be honest** with you and let them know you are **not there to judge them**.

This is not about forcing a young person to think certain things; it is about **empowering young people to make positive choices**.





Building trusting relationships

Young people tend to think of 'trusted' adults as those who treat them as an equal, who don't judge and aren't afraid to tell the truth (honestly, yet sensitively).

In return, when this level of trust is reached, young people are more likely to listen to that adult, respect their opinion, take their advice, and go to them when they need help.

The most trusted adults in a young person's life typically include professional practitioners like youth workers, sports coaches, family members, friends' parents and community leaders.

At the heart of this trusting relationship is the ability to have a quality conversation where a young person feels listened to, able to open up, and **feel safe**, both **physically** and **emotionally**.



Think ahead



Young people told us they usually know when a situation is about to get too deep and when to steer clear.

Many inherently knew the 'right' way to behave and offered up many practical and emotional examples of how to keep themselves and their friends safe.

However, when up against strong peer influences or operating in a state of fear, most admitted to needing a bit of adult support to help them reach the best decisions.

Take a breath and step back from the situation

Where do you want to be in 5 minutes?
Consider the consequences

What can be done to de-escalate the situation / issue?

Is there a trusted adult that can help?

Langley Grammar School

Behaviour for Learning Policy

October 2022 (with minor amendments Feb 2024)



School Rules

The law gives schools the general power to discipline, as circumscribed by Section 91 of the Education and Inspections Act 2006; this power enables a member of staff to confiscate, retain or dispose of a student's property as a disciplinary penalty, where reasonable to do so.

A member of staff with designated authority can use their discretion to confiscate, retain and/or destroy any item found as a result of a **'with consent'** search so long as it is reasonable in the circumstances. Where any article is reasonably suspected to be an offensive weapon, it must be passed to the police.

6. Suspensions and Permanent Exclusions

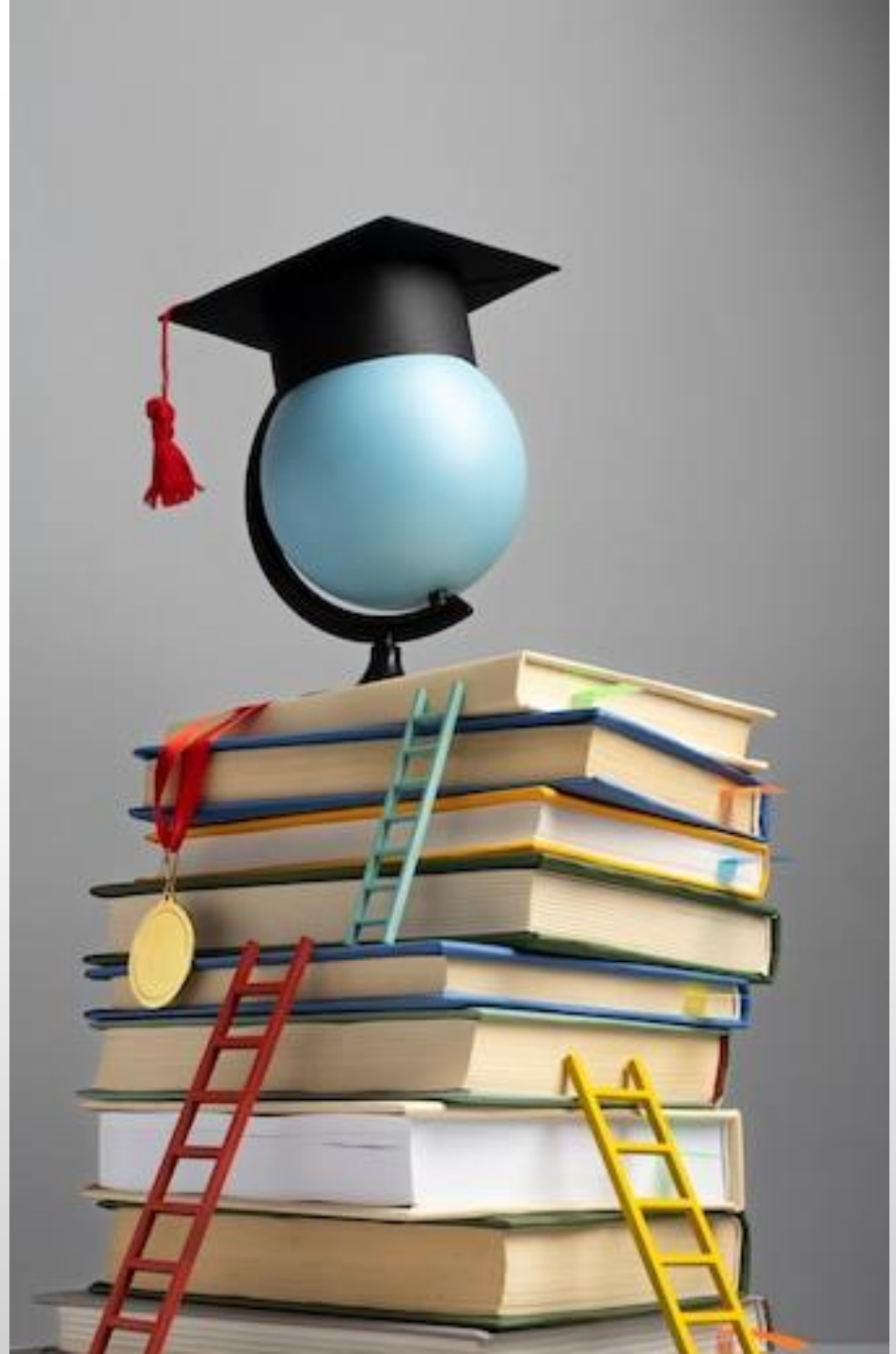
Suspension (also known as Fixed-Term Exclusion) may be used as a sanction for serious breaches of the school's expectations of behaviour. Permanent exclusion will be considered in response to a serious breach or persistent breaches of the school's expectations **and** where allowing the student to remain in school would seriously harm the education or welfare of the student or of other students in the school.



PCS Curriculum

Year 8

- Knife crime (Summer Term)
- In 2023, Years 8 – 13 had an hour session Alison Cope
- Series of lessons and assemblies on joint enterprise.





Take notice and be alert to any changes in behaviour – address fears.



Start conversations early



Reach out to school – we can help

Strategies





Keywords

Location



Home / Turning Point, START

Turning Point, START

Turning Point - Slough Treatment, Advice and Recovery Team (START) is a free, confidential service for adults and young people who are struggling with drugs or alcohol and their friends and families.

The service offers support with:

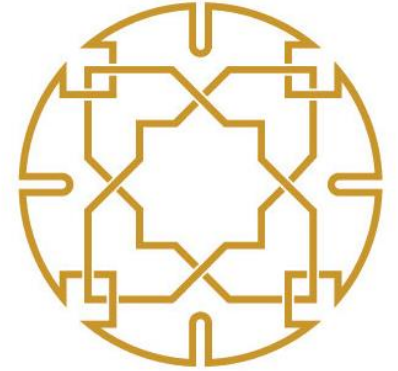
- drugs & alcohol
- mental health
- learning disability
- sexual health.

[Check START for advice and resources on:](#)

- wellbeing
- healthy eating
- low mood
- managing worries
- gambling
- stress



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THE GARDEN CLINIC



YOUNG MINDS

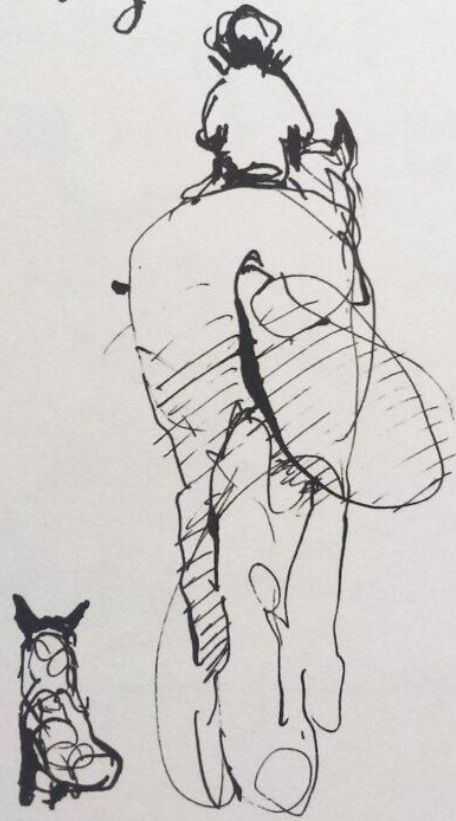


Anxiety UK

CONTACT US

Safeguarding@lgs.slough.sch.uk

"What is the bravest thing
you've ever said?" asked
the boy.



"Help," said the horse.