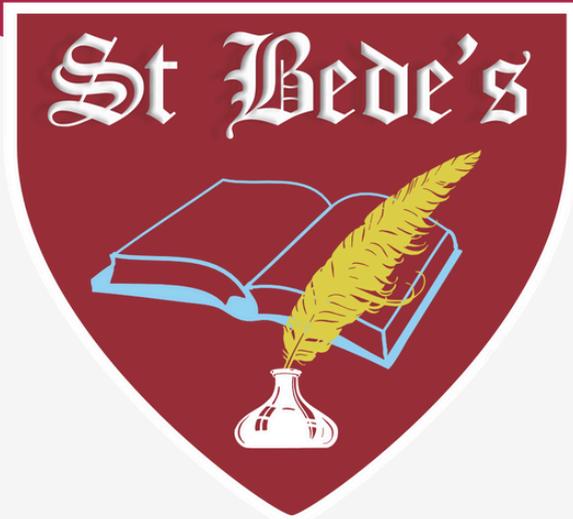


# St Bede's Newsletter

Welcome to St Bede's...



Attendance up to 11/04/25

Y1	Y1/2	Y2	Y3	Y3/4	Y4	Y5	Y5/6	Y6
96.23	93.66	96.98	96.46	97.61	93.54	97.33	94.61	96.61

## This week's events...

**Tuesday 29th April**

- Bikeability Y5/6 (5's only)
- Y6 SATS Booster 8am

**Wednesday 30th April**

Building confidence Y5's

**Thursday 1st May**

- KS1 Multi-skills @ Eastbourne Sports Complex
- Darlington Assistance for Refugees visiting school
- Y6 SATS Booster 8am

Coming soon...

**Monday 5th May**

**BANK HOLIDAY - School closed**

**Tuesday 6th May**

- Bikeability Y5/6 (5's only)
- Y6 SATS Booster 8am

**Wednesday 7th May**

- Y1/2 Class Assembly 9.15am
- Building confidence Y5's

**Thursday 8th May**

Y1 Care Home Visit



Click here to view our school calendar and make sure you are up to date on upcoming activities and events until the end of the school year

<https://stbedesarlington.bhcet.org.uk/school-calendar>

# Our Safeguarding Focus This Week...

## What Parents & Educators Need to Know about

# TEKKEN 8

Thirty years after its debut on the original PlayStation, the Tekken franchise is back with its eighth mainstream instalment. A one-on-one fighting game series in the same vein as Street Fighter and Mortal Kombat, Tekken 8 can be commended for its relative lack of in-game purchases – but there's still plenty to consider in keeping young players safe from potential hazards.



### WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

#### FUTURE SPENDING?

Tekken 8 carries a PEGI 16 rating, with the assessors noting its violence, occasional profanity and in-game purchase options. The latter issue, however, is a little different to what you may expect from a modern game: unlike many high-profile releases, Tekken 8's content is all accessible without spending any extra money. The exceptions are new characters, which will become available to purchase separately in the future.

#### COPYCAT RISK

With characters flying across the screen using a mixture of authentic and fantastical fighting styles, younger children and impressionable teens may find themselves tempted to copy their favourite characters or act out their epic fights in real life. This could simply amount to harmless fun – but could also easily lead to accidents, injury and distress if young gamers start actually landing blows.

#### VIOLENT GAMEPLAY

As a fighting game, Tekken 8's gameplay is heavily based on punching, kicking and throwing opponents around – while some characters' attacks occasionally involve weapons. Most of the violence is comparatively cartoonish in its execution and lacking in gore, but the fact remains that the action still revolves entirely around intense combat and inflicting damage on an opponent.

#### FAMILY CONFLICT

Tekken 8's story mode, 'The Dark Awakens', focuses on two of the series' most important characters – Kazuya and Jin, a father and son who have been warring for years. The sight of two family members physically fighting each other may be hard to understand (and difficult to deal with) for some children – causing confusion and concern over why relatives would want to hurt one another.

#### RANKED ONLINE PLAY

Tekken 8 features an array of online modes – most notably its 'ranked' section, where players battle to reach the top spot of a worldwide leaderboard. Many players will dedicate significant amounts of time to practising and – while the challenge can be fun – some of these matches can get extremely competitive. Children could become obsessed with climbing the rankings and dedicate an unhealthy amount of time to the game or grow angry if they wind up on a losing streak.

#### ONLINE CONTACT

Tekken 8 doesn't offer voice chat by default, but a player's platform ID is visible (such as their PlayStation Network ID, Steam account or Xbox gamertag). If you wish, players can, therefore, reach out via messages if they wish. Given the game's fiercely competitive nature, these communications can potentially put children at risk of online abuse if their opponent is a particularly sore loser.

## Advice for Parents & Educators

#### TRY IT OUT YOURSELF

As with many popular games, we'd recommend checking it out for yourself in advance if you have any concerns. In the case of Tekken 8, there's a free demo version available (for all platforms) which lets you experience fights with a handful of the characters: a useful way of establishing first-hand whether some children might find the game's violence to be too intense.

#### EXERCISE YOUR JUDGEMENT

While Tekken 8 features a sort of 'spray' impact effect when attacks land, it's not the kind of game that most observers would describe as gory (unlike, for instance, the Mortal Kombat franchise). Of course, any fighting game worthy of the name will include a significant degree of violence – but the level at which the battles in Tekken are pitched may not be an issue for some children.

#### MARTIAL ARTS MOTIVATION?

With characters utilising real-world fighting styles such as jiu-jitsu, boxing and kickboxing, Tekken could represent an opportunity to channel a child's fondness for the game into a beneficial interest in real-world martial arts. Classes can help to build young people's confidence and physical fitness, as well as providing avenues for making new friends.

#### CONTROL COMMUNICATIONS

If a child plays Tekken online with anyone apart from their friends, then parents and carers could consider restricting communications – such as shutting off the facility to be messaged by other players (although the child's profile name will still be displayed) – to reduce the chance of contact from strangers. This can be done via the console's account settings or through the child's Steam account (if playing on PC).

### Meet Our Expert

Editor in Chief of gaming and esports site GGRace, Lloyd Coombes has worked in the games media industry for five years. He's played every Tekken title since the series began and, as a parent, also values the importance of online safety, writing mainly about tech and fitness. His articles have been published on influential sites including iDn and Techradar.



Source: <https://www.ign.com/articles/tekken-8-features-a-free-demo-version>



Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date of release: 06.03.2024

The children had a wonderful sunny afternoon celebrating Earth Day. Learning about the work of David Attenborough and Andy Goldsworthy and creating their own art in nature! Thank you to our families for helping to support Earth Day by making a family pledge to help our environment!





# POPE FRANCIS 1936-2025

With hearts full of sorrow and gratitude, we remember Pope Francis, a true Pilgrim of Hope, who dedicated his life to walking with the poor, the broken, and the forgotten.

A humble shepherd who showed us how to love, serve, and forgive – always pointing us toward Christ with compassion and courage.

“Hope does not disappoint” (Romans 5:5) – and he lived those words every single day.

**As we mourn, we also pray**

**Eternal rest grant unto him, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon him. May he rest in peace. Amen.**

May his soul, and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen