



## What Parents and Educators Need to Know about Tekken 8

At The National College, our WakeUpWednesday guides empower and equip parents, carers and educators with the confidence and practical skills to be able to have informed and age-appropriate conversations with children about online safety, mental health and wellbeing, and climate change. Formerly delivered by National Online Safety, these guides now address wider topics and themes. For further guides, hints and tips, please visit [nationalcollege.com](https://nationalcollege.com).

# 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 developers 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 attack occasionally using 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 Awaken', focuses on two of the series' most important characters – Katsuya 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). Rival 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.

**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.

**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.

**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 GGScore, 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 mostly about tech and fitness, his articles have been published on influential sites including iDn and TechRadar.

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**The National College**

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£10 million in sales within 10 days  
50,000 simultaneous players  
The fighting game Tekken 8 has enjoyed an astounding degree of success since its release in late January. Its impressive presentation and entertaining roster of characters has struck a chord, both with long-term fans and newcomers to the Tekken series – many of whom are children and young people.

Tekken's relative lack of gore distinguishes it from similar titles such as Mortal Kombat, making it seemingly more suitable for under-18s. Its inherent focus on violence, however, plus a highly competitive online play mode against (often older) strangers and some potentially problematic strands of the plot combine to earn it a PEGI 16 age rating. Our #WakeUpWednesday guide has the full story.

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