



St Catherine's School & College

Specialists in Speech, Language and
Communication Needs

St Catherine's
Grove Road
Ventnor
Isle of Wight
PO38 1TT

Tel: 01983 852722

Email: general@stcatherines.org.uk

Website: www.stcatherines.org.uk

Summer Term Week 12

10th July 2026

ACHIEVEMENTS & AWARDS



The Reader of the Week award has been
presented to:

Mia

The Principal's Praise award has been
presented to:

Bailey & Luke

The Behaviour For Learning award has been
presented to:

Jaden
Tanner

Max N
Kayan

Charlie F
Joseph



The Behaviour For Character award has been
presented to:



Lydia
Maisey

Lulu
Sonnie
Gwehona

Olivia
Charlie-Joe

Well done to all students who received
awards this week!



ATTENDANCE

6AMD - 97.56%

6ILP - 100%

6JG - 90.28%

Austen - 91.11%

Bloom - 95.56%

Branson - 96.67%

Burton - 93.06%

Goldberg - 95.56%

Hopkins - 98.41%

Newton - 88.89%

Oliver - 83.33%

Packham - 62.5%

Radcliffe - 100%

Watson - 61.4%

Well done to all classes who were here
everyday this week!

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

July

20th Sports Day - start time 10:30 (Email
will be sent out with more information)

22nd Virtual End of Term Consultations

24th Coffee Morning, End of Year

Assembly and In-Person End of Term

Consultations



THE GROVE AFTER SCHOOL CLUB

We are holding 'The Grove' after school club every Tuesday 3:30pm - 5:00pm.

July

14th - Ventnor Walk

21st - Summer Activity

All activities are weather dependent. If the weather is not suitable for an outside activity, an indoor alternative will be arranged. Sessions have to be booked in advance and parents/carers are able to book block sessions. If you have any queries or would like to book, please contact The Grove Team on: the-grove@stcatherines.org.uk
Transport must be arranged by parents. £2 per week.



BLOOM CLASS

This week, we started with an exciting assembly where we watched the highlights of the England vs Mexico match. It was a fantastic way to begin the week, and everyone enjoyed cheering on England! The week was a little different as we spent two transition days with our new class and teacher in preparation for September. Everyone coped well with the changes and embraced the new routines with confidence and seemed to really enjoy the experience. On Thursday, we enjoyed a fun-filled RE Day, learning all about Guru Nanak and exploring the concept of heroes. The children thought carefully about the qualities that make someone a hero and how these link to Guru Nanak's life and teachings. In Maths, we have continued our work on money, while in English we carried on with The Tiny Seed, writing clear instructions explaining how to plant a seed. Well done, Bloom Class, for another fantastic week of learning!



RADCLIFFE CLASS

This week has been such a busy week for Radcliffe class. All the students had an amazing time in their new classes. Some learnt how to juggle!!! This week in Maths we have finished working on 'money' and are practising 'place value'. It is really good to practise this as understanding a number is key. During RE day, we learnt about the Sikh religion.

HOPKINS CLASS

This week has been a busy week with transition days and RE day. We all got to know each other and played team building games in our new classes. We learnt about Sikhism in RE. It was linked to heroes. We talked about the heroes in our lives.

PACKHAM CLASS

This week has been a bit different as Packham class have been taking part in some different days at school. On Tuesday and Wednesday the class was split up into their new classes for next year for the transition days. It seems that everyone has a very exciting couple of days meeting new teachers and class staff as well as making new friends in their new classes. The students took part in a variety of different activities such as team games, obstacle courses, and social interaction games. On Thursday it was RE day. The students learned about Buddhism, Nirvana day with the overarching concept of 'peace'.

OLIVER CLASS

Monday was our class trip to Blackgang Chine. What a wonderful time we had! The weather was good to us as it wasn't too hot. Lots of laughter and fun!

AUSTEN CLASS

We had move up days this week and most of Austen stayed together and got to know their new peers and teacher. During the rest of the week we continued 'Dungeons and Dragons' in SALT and in English we worked on 'The Highway Man'. In PE, we had a taster session playing Golf. On Thursday we had RE day where we focused on Buddhism and peaceful activities, ending with an activity based on this to do with art. A hot busy week with lots of changes.

GOLDBERG CLASS

In assembly this week we got to watch the England vs Mexico highlights, it was very exciting and we all cheered when the final whistle went. This has been a very different week, we have had our 2 transition days where we got to know our new peers, Teachers and TAs. On Thursday we had RE day where we focused on Buddhism, we did various interesting tasks and finished the day with fun activities. A very hot busy week for Goldberg, but super proud of every single student and how they dealt with this.

BURTON CLASS

In English this week, we have continued to practise our poem and we are nearly ready to perform it. We have had two great transition days and enjoyed meeting our new classes. In Humanities, we plotted some of the major rivers of the UK on a map. In Science, we learnt about different parts of a flower and the job that they do to help with the process of pollination. In Art, we made our own designs ready to print onto a t-shirt.

NEWTON CLASS

On Monday during speech we found out the answer to our mystery robbery and who was responsible. In Science, we started building the robot for next year. We transitioned to Mrs Tilling's class Tuesday and Wednesday and we made futuristic cities. We joined Watson for RE Day on Thursday looking at the differences between good and evil and doing some mindful colouring of Fanoos Lamps before splitting off for our RE groups.

BRANSON CLASS

It has been a very different week in Branson. All of the students who are moving up had two transition days at college. Everyone was incredibly positive about the experience and really threw themselves into all activities on offer (including the impromptu water fight). Thursday was RE day, in which we looked at Good and Evil and what Islam teaches about them. We looked at recognising and making good or bad choices and how the intent (Niyah) behind a choice can affect whether the action is truly good.

WATSON CLASS

This week has been extremely busy with two transition days where the majority of Watson went up to College. The students are now back and have all reported that they really enjoyed the College experience. Thursday was RE day and we have been learning all about Eid Al-Adha and the difference between good and evil. We have also been taking regular breaks in the shade.

6JG CLASS

On Friday 3rd July we got the opportunity to interview local MP, Joe Robertson on film as part of our Listen Up project. We prepared our questions beforehand and set up the classroom ready. After Joe had answered all of our questions on waste we were able to quiz him on other things that we were interested in. On Monday 6th July, we were visited by Olivia, a member of the environment and innovation team for Southern Water and were able to film her whilst she explained the actions that Southern Water are already taking to help reduce some of the excess rainwater which is currently going into our sewage systems. She had a model that clearly demonstrated how water was placed currently and after these systems had been installed. On Tuesday, we went offsite to Sandown beach where we were lucky enough to interview a representative from Surfers Against Sewage and Ian Boyd, a local ecologist.



6AMD CLASS

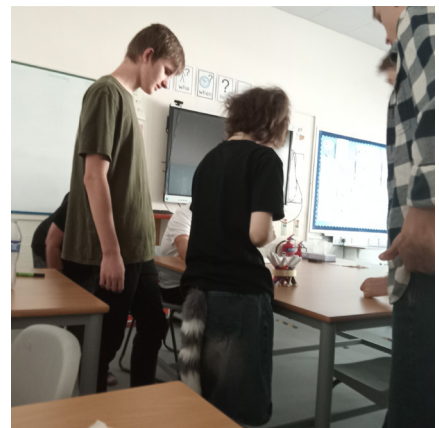
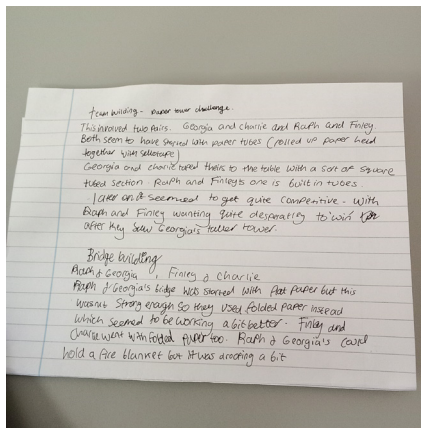
This week we have started planning our Leavers' Lunch. As part of this, we all get to invite one member of staff who has had an impact on us during our time at St. Catherine's. We then plan and prepare a meal for them to say thank you and goodbye. We have continued writing our leavers' speeches in our speech and language therapy sessions; we will deliver these at Prom (Thursday 16th July) and at the end of term assembly. Alongside this, we are developing communication profiles, which are guides we can use at future provisions to help us advocate for our needs and wishes. These include details of what we enjoy, what we excel at, and areas where we require more support (and what this support might look like). In Art, we have started making memory books, using photos from all our time at St Catherine's. Looking through the photo archives has been great fun! On Wednesday, we took a trip down to the Ventnor Fire Station. There, we got to try on kit, sit in the trucks and learn all about how the Hampshire & Isle of Wight Fire & Rescue Service operates. On Thursday, we continued our work experience placements. Overall, a busy week!

6ILP CLASS

During joint OT and SaLT therapy sessions, 6ILP class has been planning a trip and has been supported to consider the different elements involved in organising a visit. This has included exploring transport options, planning timings, costs, selecting a destination, identifying safety considerations and developing the skills needed to plan and organise an outing. Today, the students visited Sandown Beach, where they took part in a choice of activities, including rounders, football, and a paddle in the sea.

COLLEGE TRANSITION DAYS (6AMD)

We had a great two days transition and are looking forward to moving up to college in September. We got to know our new tutors and took part in some fun activities that helped us find out about one another, problem solve and work together, including, den building and constructing paper towers and bridges.



PARENT/CARER QUESTIONNAIRE

We will be sending out a parent/carer questionnaire to gain feedback on our School and College. Please take the time to complete it - your feedback is invaluable to us.

AMAZING VOLUNTEERS

We would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to the fantastic team from Southern Water and Cappagh Browne who generously donated their time and energy to support St Catherine's through their volunteer programmes.

The team has helped us to transform our outdoor spaces. They have created the beginnings of a beautiful wildlife garden, helping us to provide a welcoming habitat for local wildlife while enhancing the environment for everyone who visits. They also worked tirelessly to clear the area surrounding our Forest School building, removing large rocks, and began preparing the site for the construction of an exciting new pond. Their hard work has laid the foundations for a space that will benefit our pupils and the wider school community for years to come.



The generosity, enthusiasm, and teamwork shown by both organisations have made a lasting impact on our school. Volunteering not only helps us improve our facilities but also strengthens the connections between local businesses and our community.

Thank you once again to everyone from Southern Water and Cappagh Browne for your hard work, dedication, and kindness. We truly appreciate your support and look forward to seeing the positive impact of your efforts for many years to come.

Breakfast Club Menu

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
 Pancakes	 Scrambled Eggs	 Pancakes	 Scrambled Eggs	 Pancakes
 Toast	 Toast	 Toast	 Toast	 Toast
 Cereal	 Cereal	 Cereal	 Cereal	 Cereal
 Yogurt	 Yogurt	 Yogurt	 Yogurt	 Yogurt
 Fruit	 Fruit	 Fruit	 Fruit	 Fruit
 Boiled egg	 Boiled egg	 Boiled egg	 Boiled egg	 Boiled egg
 Porridge	 Porridge	 Porridge	 Porridge	 Porridge
 Milk	 Milk	 Milk	 Milk	 Milk
 Water	 Water	 Water	 Water	 Water

SCHOOL MENU

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Chicken/ Vegetable Curry or Jacket Potato with choice of filling	Toad in the Hole/Vegetable or Plain Sausage or Tomato Pasta	Roast Beef/ Vegetable Burger or Tomato Pasta	Macaroni Cheese with a Baguette or Jacket Potato with choice of filling	Beef or Vegetable Burger/Fish Fingers with Chips or Jacket Potato with choice of filling
Salad Bar Tuna or Mackerel	Salad Bar Cheese & Egg or Mackerel	Salad Bar Ham or Mackerel	Salad Bar Tuna or Mackerel	Salad Bar Cheese or Mackerel
Fresh Fruit Platter	Artic Roll	Fresh Fruit Salad	Cookies	Pudding of the Day

Fresh vegetables and salad are available with all main meals. Fresh fruit and yoghurt are always options for dessert.

STAFFING UPDATE

Unfortunately, due to a change in circumstances, we currently do not have a Family Liaison Officer in post. During this time, please redirect all communication to our Vice Principal and DSL, Jenn Walker. Further updates will be provided when available. Thank you.

NEW SIGNING SONG

Follow the link to watch and learn our new signing song, 'This is Me' that students will be learning at school this term. <https://bit.ly/4dYqkau>

MESSAGE FROM THE NURSES



Stay ahead of Hay Fever



As we are half way through **Hay Fever** season
here are some helpful points to help manage symptoms

Top Tips:

- ✔ Start **Antihistamines** 2-3 weeks before your season begins, and continue daily until the end of the season.
- ✔ Wear Sunglasses outdoors.
- ✔ Shower and change clothes after being outside.
- ✔ Keep windows shut at peak times.
- ✔ Use Vaseline around the nose to help trap pollen

Avoid:

- ✗ Spending too much time outside.
- ✗ Walking through long grass, or sitting in large grassy or heavily wooded areas.
- ✗ Having fresh flowers in the house.
- ✗ Drying washing outside.
- ✗ Rubbing your eyes

Please be aware that pollen season can make Asthma and Lung Conditions worse therefore it is important to ensure that if you always have a Reliever Inhaler with you (and use it if your symptoms flare).

Charlie Panayi delivered the Sun Safe Campaign to St Catherine's School
As part of keeping our students safe we have signed up to SKCIN campaign along side Zoe's Law.

More information on SKCIN here: <https://www.skcin.org/>
More information on Zoe's Law here: <https://www.facebook.com/zoeapanayilaw>





HAF is back for Summer 2026!

The Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) programme offers free activities and meals to eligible school-age children during the main school holidays. With summer approaching we have included details below of our summer programme.

- Activities run from Monday 27th July- Friday 28th August
- Bookings open Tuesday 23rd June at 12pm
- All activities include a healthy nutritious meal for children and young people attending
- Free spaces are available to children who receive income-related free school meals
- Varied activity programme including horse riding, music, football, fun at the farm, youth clubs, multi activity holiday clubs, bushcraft, water sports and family days.
- Please share with families you are working with and encourage them to book on to activities should they be eligible.

We can also offer a limited number of discretionary-funded places for children who do not meet the criteria above but would benefit from attending. This may include, for example:

- Children assessed by the Local Authority as being in need, at risk or vulnerable
- Looked-after children
- Children under Early Help
- Young carers
- Children with an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP)

For more information on the programme and details on who can access discretionary funded places, please visit our [webpages](#).

How to book:

All bookings can be made through our [HAF Booking System](#) (QR code below)



Full details on all our activities can also be found on the Isle of Wight [Family Information Hub webpages](#).

Please contact the HAF Team on holidayactivities@iow.gov.uk if you have any questions.



Abseil Down The Spinnaker Tower For St Catherine's School and College

Abseil Dates available

May - June - July - August



St Catherine's School & College

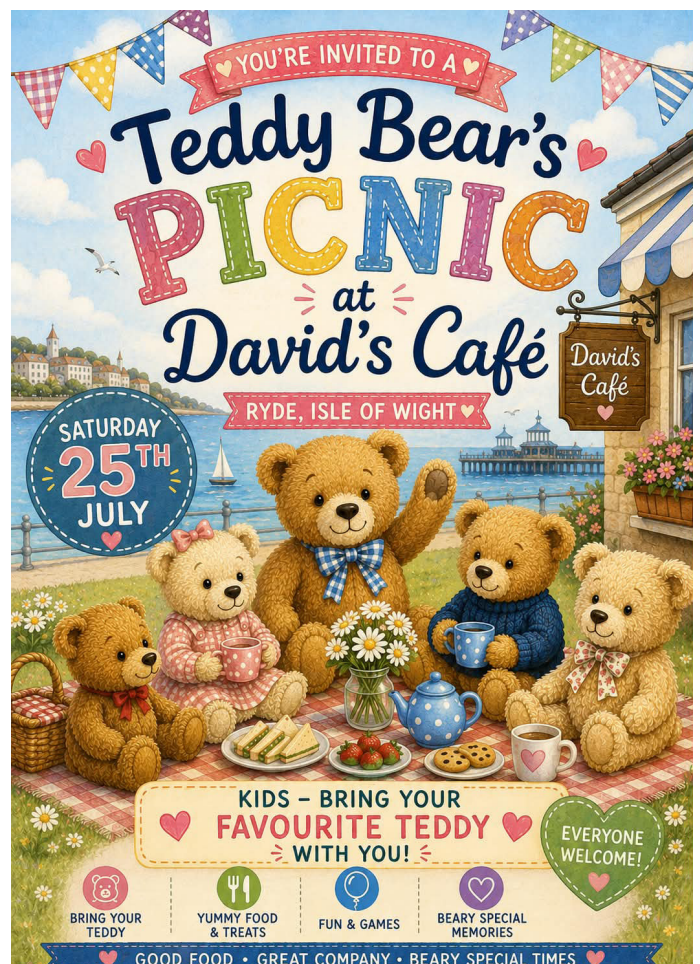
Specialists in Speech, Language and Communication Needs

Fundraising Target £300

Please email Tanya

smitht@stcatherines.org.uk

For more information





Specialist Support for Children with Additional Needs

Our personalised care addresses your child's specific needs while building practical life skills, communication abilities, and independence.

Professional, caring support tailored to children with additional needs. Our experienced Personal Assistants help develop skills, build confidence, and enjoy life to the fullest.

Over 20 years of trusted care for children and young people up to age 25 with

ASC/ASD, ADHD, PDA, SEMH, LD and other complex needs.



Personal Assistant Services

Dedicated one-to-one support and respite care



Building Independence

Developing confidence and life skills in line with EHCP and other desired outcomes



Tailored Family Support

Coaching, mentoring and buddy schemes, Respite



Experienced and Trained

Our staff are all experienced and trained to our mandatory standard, additional training can be sought as necessary.



Matched Support

Personal Assistants carefully selected to meet your child's specific needs and interests



Professional Team

Experienced consultants supporting families in Hampshire, Surrey, West Sussex, Dorset & Isle of Wight

Ready to learn more?

[Freedom Care Support for Your Child Attending a Special Needs School](#)

See our detailed brochure [HERE](#)

www.freedomcare.co.uk

0800 0851444

supportenquiries@freedomcare.co.uk



SATURDAY CLUB SAILING

FOR YEAR 6 STUDENTS

For young sailors with previous experience who want to take their sailing skills to the next level!

These sessions follow the same format as the Schools Sailing Programme. The aim is to further participants' sailing knowledge and skills.



FOR YEAR 6 STUDENTS ONLY

Due to the high demand, sessions are only open to Year 6 pupils.



PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE NEEDED

For children who have already completed, or taken part in, an official Sailing 1 course or equivalent.



LIMITED SPACES

Places are limited to just 34 participants per session. Book early to avoid disappointment!



HOW TO BOOK

Contact sailing@seaviewtrust.org.uk to book a place.

£1

WE ASK FOR A £1 PER WEEK CONTRIBUTION towards the Seaview Sailing Trust charity that funds these sessions. (The first last date are not shared with children.)



SEAVIEW SAILING TRUST
Registered Charity No. 109676

2026 SATURDAY CLUB SAILING SESSIONS

SESSION 1	0900 - 1200	SAT 6th JUNE 2026	SESSION 6	1300 - 1600	SAT 20th JUNE 2026
SESSION 2	1000 - 1300	SAT 6th JUNE 2026	SESSION 7	0900 - 1200	SAT 27th JUNE 2026
SESSION 3	0900 - 1200	SAT 13th JUNE 2026	SESSION 8	1300 - 1600	SAT 27th JUNE 2026
SESSION 4	1000 - 1300	SAT 13th JUNE 2026	SESSION 9	0900 - 1200	SAT 4th JULY 2026
SESSION 5	0900 - 1200	SAT 20th JUNE 2026	SESSION 10	1300 - 1600	SAT 4th JULY 2026

MORE SAILING OPPORTUNITIES

There are also several local clubs and centres offering sailing for young people:

- Booding Haven Yacht Club (Bournemouth Harbour - 30 mins west)
- Bournemouth Sailing Club (Bournemouth Harbour - Bournemouth east)
- Royal Bournemouth Yacht Club (Bournemouth)
- Royal Weymouth Yacht Club (Weymouth)
- Solent Sailing Club (Solent)
- Solent Sailing Club (Solent)
- Solent Sailing Club (Solent)
- Solent Sailing Club (Solent)

NEW PARTNER



SEA SCOUTS

We have teamed up with the local Sea Scouts who can now support further sailing opportunities for us.



DEVELOP SKILLS. BUILD CONFIDENCE. ENJOY SAILING!

Parent and Caregiver Peer Support Sessions

11th June 2026 (9am – 11am) Cowes Family Centre

16th July 2026 (9am – 11am) Carisbrook & Gunville Church

16th September 2026 (9am – 11am) Ventnor Family Centre

16th October 2026 (9am – 11am) Sandown Family Centre

18th November 2026 (9am – 11am) Carisbrook & Gunville Church

13th January 2027 (9am – 11am) Carisbrook & Gunville Church

10th February 2027 (9am – 11am) Carisbrook & Gunville Church



Drop in for a chat, a cuppa and shared experiences

No booking needed



Cowes Family Centre –
Love Lane, Cowes PO31 7ET
Carisbrook & Gunville Church
Gunville Road, Newport
PO30 5LS
Ventnor Family Centre
Albert Street, Ventnor PO38 1EZ
Sandown Family Centre
The Fairway, Sandown PO36 9EQ

Isle of Wight
Neurodiversity
Team



St Catherine's

Specialists in Speech, Language and
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School - College - Post 19

Charity Shop

St Catherine's School Charity shop in Ventnor
is looking for good-quality clothes, books,
CDs, DVDs, games, jigsaws, bric-a-brac, and
toys to sell to raise vital funds for
St Catherine's School.

Please donate items to our Charity Shop
Church Street, Ventnor

Charity Number: 288148

Speech &
Language Therapy

Occupational
Therapy

Sign Supported
English

Residential and
Day School

Ofsted
Outstanding
Provider

Residential
School & College



Ofsted
Good
Provider

Education
School & College



St Catherine's

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Communication Needs
School - College - Post 19

Ethel Dares
WINGWALKING



WING WALK EVENT

10TH AUGUST

SIGN UP NOW
FOR THIS AMAZING
CHALLENGE!

AT
SANDOWN
AIRPORT

In partnership with
Ethel Dares

stcatherine.org.uk

01983 852722

smitht@stcatherines.org.uk



St Catherine's
School & College

Specialists in Speech, Language and
Communication Needs



great south
run

THE GREAT SOUTH RUN

FUNDRAISE FOR
ST CATHERINE'S SCHOOL

Run, make a difference
and help support children
and young people with
Speech, Language and
Communication Needs.

EVERY STEP
YOU TAKE
HELPS US MAKE
A BIGGER
DIFFERENCE.

BOOK A SPACE!



To book your place
or find out more,
please email:

smitht@stcatherines.org.uk

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about SKIN BETTING

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

'Skin betting' is the term used when players gamble using virtual in-game items, such as weapon 'skins' or character cosmetics. Although these items appear purely decorative, some can hold significant real-world value. Research suggests that children as young as 13 have engaged in this type of betting, often on sites with limited age checks or safeguards, blurring the line between gaming and gambling.

UNREGULATED PLATFORMS

Skin gambling typically takes place on third-party websites that are not licensed or regulated. These platforms often lack age verification, making them easily accessible to children. By linking their gaming accounts, users can deposit skins, place bets, and withdraw winnings as cash or higher-value items – often without adults being aware these activities are happening.

REAL-WORLD VALUE

Skins may look like simple cosmetic upgrades to in-game items and characters, but some are worth hundreds or even thousands of pounds. They can be traded or sold on online marketplaces, meaning they function much like real money. When young people bet with skins, they are risking items of genuine financial value, even if no physical cash is exchanged directly.

INFLUENCER PROMOTION

Some gaming influencers and streamers have promoted skin betting sites in their content. This can make the behaviour appear normal or even desirable, potentially encouraging younger audiences to engage in these activities without fully understanding the risks involved.

SOCIAL STATUS PRESSURE

In games such as Counter Strike: Global Offensive (CS:GO) and Fortnite, rare skins can act as status symbols. Young players may feel the pressure to own high-value items to fit in with peers. This can lead them to take risks – such as using gambling sites – to obtain desirable skins, similar to how branded goods can influence behaviour offline.

LIMITED OVERSIGHT

Skin betting can take place both in-game and on external websites that parents and educators may not be familiar with. Because skin betting does not always resemble traditional gambling, it can go unnoticed until significant losses have occurred, in both items or money.

GATEWAY BEHAVIOURS

Skin betting mirrors many aspects of traditional gambling, including chance-based outcomes, reward systems and excitement. Early exposure to these mechanics can normalise betting behaviours before children and young people even reach legal gambling age. Research indicates that this may increase the likelihood of developing unhealthy habits later, particularly if early wins create a false sense of control or skill.

Advice for Parents & Educators

UNDERSTAND IN-GAME ITEMS

Familiarise yourself with the games young people are playing and learn whether they include tradable or sellable items. Titles like CS:GO and Rust are known for skin marketplaces, but similar systems are increasingly common across games.

LOOK FOR WARNING SIGNS

Be alert to changes in behaviour, such as secrecy around gaming, a strong focus on acquiring specific skins, or a sudden loss of in-game items. These could indicate involvement in skin gambling and provide an opportunity to start a conversation about it.

DISCUSS VALUE AND RISK

Help children and young people understand that cosmetic items like skins can carry real-world value. Explain that losing them through betting is comparable to losing money, therefore reinforcing the connection between in-game actions and real financial consequences.

USE CONTROLS AND SAFEGUARDS

Make use of parental controls and platform settings to restrict trading, purchases, and access to external websites. Where possible, disable marketplace features on games and monitor young people's account activity to reduce the risk of unauthorised transactions.

Meet Our Expert

Nathan David is Head of Foundation and Programme Lead for Esports Coaching at the University Campus of Esports.

Bubba Gaeddert is a Senior Lecturer and Head of Events at the University Campus of Esports, as well as President and Co-Founder of the Videogames and Esports Foundation.



The National College®

See full reference list on our website

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