



Online Gambling and Addiction

Aims:

Explore the growth in online gambling, attitudes around 'risk' and the link between addiction and online gambling behaviours.

Preparation and materials:

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=b000pRAvIBE> [available 05/20] ('Gambling addiction in teenagers' - WCPO 9)

Assembly:

1. Introduce the topic of online gambling and the connection with technology. Why might online gambling or gambling in general be a topic for discussion? Why might people need to be educated in it? Why do you think that we are talking about online gambling in school? Take some feedback from the group.
2. Highlight the official gambling definition on a PP. *Online gambling (or Internet gambling) is any kind of gambling conducted on the internet. This includes virtual poker, casinos and sports betting. ... In many legal markets, online gambling service providers are required by law to have some form of licence if they wish to provide services or advertise to residents there.*
3. Explain that gambling is not a drug, and yet the effects can be very similar. Since the start of online gambling there has been a surge in people becoming addicted. When you hear the word 'addiction' what do you think of? Do you think it is possible to become addicted to online gambling?
4. Watch the video about gambling addiction in teenagers. Do you agree with the man in the film that 'gambling is just like any other addiction?' What sort of character virtues might be useful in combatting an addiction or problem with an issue like gambling? How might they be helpful?
5. Encourage students to think about the problem of addiction. If we work from the place that having a habit or dependency to online gambling are not good things how might a friend help someone to overcome their addiction? How would you help someone that you know who might be struggling in this area? What virtues would you be using in giving help to someone?



Reflection:

What is your relationship to online gambling? Do you know anyone involved in online gambling or other online issues. Reflect on the message of today's assembly. What message will you take away?

Challenge:

There are many organizations that work to support people who are struggling with the effects of gambling. Explore one of the websites detailed here and read what information and resources the organization offers.

- **Childline** 0800 1111 [childline.org.uk](https://www.childline.org.uk) offers a range of ways to talk to a trained counsellor, including via email and an online chat service. Calls are free from a landline or mobile.
- **BeGambleAware** [BeGambleAware.org](https://www.begambleaware.org) offers free and confidential information, advice and support for anyone who is worried about theirs or someone else's gambling.
- **The National Gambling Helpline** 0808 8020 133 or [begambleaware.org/NGTS](https://www.begambleaware.org/NGTS), as part of the National Gambling Treatment Service, offers free help, support and advice about gambling over the phone or Live Chat.
- **Central and North West London NHS Foundation Trust** [cnwl.nhs.uk/cnwl-national-problem-gambling-clinic/](https://www.cnwl.nhs.uk/cnwl-national-problem-gambling-clinic/) offers a range of treatment options for those experiencing complex problems and specialist help for children and young people aged 13 to 25 years old.

