Xbox Series X|S Parental Controls

Step-by-step guide

The Xbox Series S and Xbox Series X let users connect to play a range of video games. You can help your child game safely by setting parental controls on their Xbox Series console or with Microsoft Family.

SERIES X|S

What do I need?

A Microsoft account for you; an account for your child.

Restrictions you can apply

Chatting

Game Ratings

Inappropriate content

Purchasing

Screen time

How to set parental controls on Xbox Series X|S

These steps were created using an Xbox Series S model. Xbox Series X uses similar parental controls.

Overview

How to set in-game spending restrictions
Limit buying and downloading
Where to manage screen time for Xbox Series X|S
Set regular screen time breaks
Manage communication between users
How to manage content restrictions
Where to review Xbox privacy settings

1

How to set in-game spending restrictions

Microsoft Family lets you set spending restrictions across consoles and devices.

To help limit accidental spending, you can use Xbox Series parental controls settings.

**To set spending limits with Microsoft Family:**

Step 1 – Open your **Microsoft Family app**. Or go to **Settings > General > Online safety & family > Family settings** and select **Family on the web**. You will need to enter or set a PIN to access this.

Step 2 – Select the **family member** you wish to set restrictions for. Then, select **Spending** from the top of the screen.

Step 3 – Next to **Get notified about every purchase [Child] makes**, turn the toggle to green (**On**). This will help you oversee their purchases.

Step 4 – Within **Microsoft account balance**, select **Add money** and **choose an amount** to add. This will allow your child to spend freely up to that amount.

Step 5 – If possible, keep credit cards off of your child's account. Otherwise, under **Credit cards**, make sure to switch **On** the toggle next to **Require approval for every purchase**.
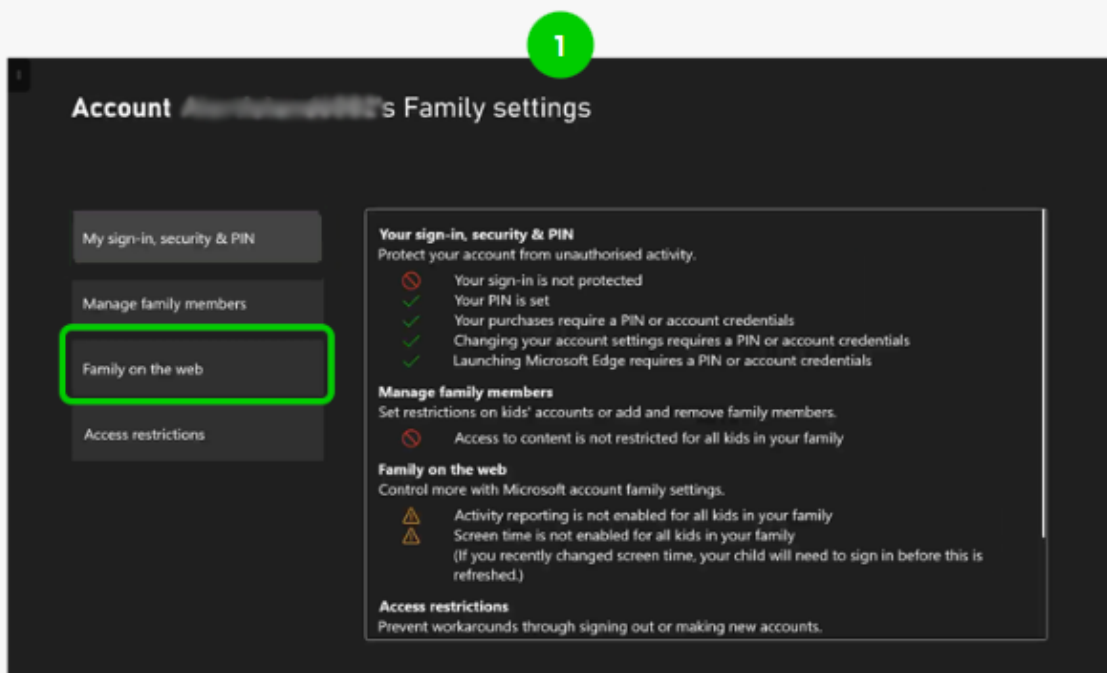
2

Sheena

Spending
Payments & purchases

Settings
Manage

Switch family m

Windows   Xbox   Edge   Mobile

Screen time

Daily average

0 min

2 h

No screen time activity available
Sheena hasn't used one or more of their
devices in a while. Once they start using their
device, you'll be able to view their device
usage here.

Insights

No change this week

Sheena spent the sam
time on their devices
you want make chan

3

Home > Sheena's overview > **Spending**

Freedom to spend responsibly

Stay informed about Sheena's spending, while allowing them to shop on their own at the Microsoft or Xbox store within
limits, using money in their Microsoft account.
Learn more

Get notified about every purchase Sheena makes   On

Sheena's payment methods

Microsoft account balance   Add money

No balance
Canada

Credit cards   Ho

No credit cards

4

Family Safety

Sheena's payment methods

Microsoft account balance   **Add money**

No balance

No approval needed for using this money or gift cards

Credit cards   How

No credit cards

Require approval for every purchase ⓘ

Spending activity

Microsoft 365 Family   Gift
None   Mar 31

5

Family Safety   ⌂ ⧉ ?

Sheena's payment methods

Microsoft account balance   Add money

No balance
Canada

No approval needed for using this money or gift cards

Credit cards   How to add a card

No credit cards

Require approval for every purchase ⓘ   ⬤ On

Spending activity

Microsoft 365 Family   Gift
None   Mar 31

Feedback

2

Limit buying and downloading

In addition to Microsoft Family spending restrictions, you can turn off buying and downloading on the Xbox Series X|S console.

To turn on buying and downloading limits:

Step 1 – From the **home** screen, select **Settings** from the top menu (shown by a gear icon).

Step 2 – Under **General**, select **Online safety & family > Family settings**. You will need to enter or set a PIN.

Step 3 – Select **Manage family members**. Either add a **new user** or select an **existing user**. Then, select **Privacy & online safety**.

Step 4 – Select **Xbox privacy**.

Step 5 – Choose a the **Child default** to set blanket restrictions. Or, select **View details & customise**.

Step 6 – Select **Buy & download**. Turn **Ask a parent** to **On**. This means they will need permission to buy or download new games or content.

1

Settings

5,070 · 02:23 PM

Browse the store

Senua's Saga: Hellblade II
Play with Game Pass

Don't forget to save
with your discounts and deals

System Shock
Explore Citadel Station

2

General

Recommendations

General
Account
System
Devices & connections
Preferences
Accessibility

Network settings

Personalisation

TV & display options

Online safety & family

Volume & audio output

Power options

Search

3

Account ████████'s Family settings

My sign-in, security & PIN

Manage family members

Family on the web

Access restrictions

Your sign-in, security & PIN
Protect your account from unauthorised activity.

- Your sign-in is not protected
- Your PIN is set
- Your purchases require a PIN or account credentials
- Changing your account settings requires a PIN or account credentials
- Launching Microsoft Edge requires a PIN or account credentials

Manage family members
Set restrictions on kids' accounts or add and remove family members.

- Access to content is not restricted for all kids in your family

Family on the web
Control more with Microsoft account family settings.

- Activity reporting is not enabled for all kids in your family
- Screen time is not enabled for all kids in your family
  (If you recently changed screen time, your child will need to sign in before this is refreshed.)

Access restrictions
Prevent workarounds through signing out or making new accounts.

4

Account Sheena's privacy and online safety settings

Sheena

Remove Sheena from this Xbox console

Remove Sheena from family

Privacy & content restrictions

Privacy & online safety

Access to content
Appropriate up to age 7

Web filtering
Basic communication

5

Account Privacy & online safety for Sheena

Child defaults
More private ●

Teen defaults
Moderate ○

Adult defaults
More social ○

View details & customise

Children can

Children can play and download free games, music, videos, and apps, and make game clips of their best moments.

Children can see other people's profiles, but need the permission of an adult in their family to add friends or see the content they create.

Others can

A child's friends can communicate with them, and see when they're online and available to play.

A child's friends can see their profile, but not their real name.

6

Account Xbox privacy for Sheena

Manage the privileges and permissions for your Xbox profile.

Online status & history

Profile

Friends & clubs

Communication & multiplayer

Game content

Sharing outside of Xbox

Buy & download

Settings include:
• Ask before buying

3

Where to manage screen time for Xbox Series X|S

Many children report feeling like they spend too much time online. Those who play video games are more likely to say this than non-gamers.

So, it's important to help them manage this. You can set screen time limits using Microsoft Family.

To manage screen time with Xbox:

Step 1 – Access your **Microsoft Family app**. Or, on the Xbox Series console, go to **Settings > General > Online safety & family > Family settings menu** and select **Family on the web**. You must enter or set a PIN.

Step 2 – Choose your child's account and then navigate to the **Xbox** tab. Here, you will see a screen time overview. If you don't, you will need to add your child's console first.

Step 3 – Scroll down to **Devices**. Under **Xbox consoles**, select **Turn limits on**.

Step 4 – In the top right corner, select the **3 dots** and **Edit limits**.

Step 5 – Set a **time limit** and **device use schedule**. You can click **Add a schedule** if you'd like to allow use at multiple times per day.
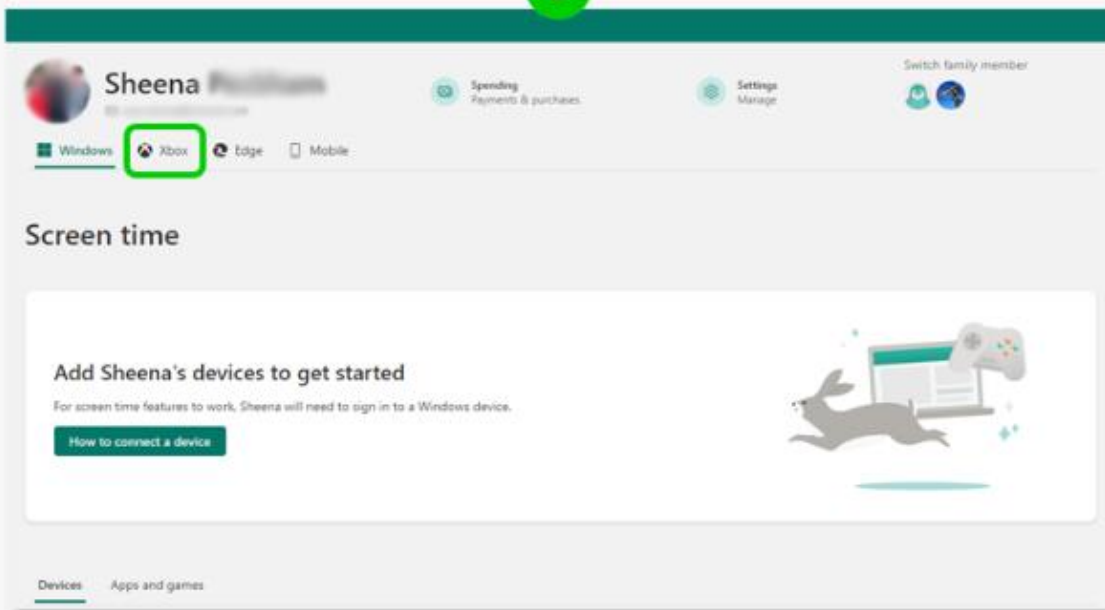
Do this once under **Every day** or repeat with each day of the week if you'd like different limits on different days.

When finished, select **Done**.

1

Account ~~Alex Islander882~~'s Family settings

My sign-in, security & PIN

Manage family members

Family on the web

Access restrictions

Your sign-in, security & PIN
Protect your account from unauthorised activity.
- 🚫 Your sign-in is not protected
- ✓ Your PIN is set
- ✓ Your purchases require a PIN or account credentials
- ✓ Changing your account settings requires a PIN or account credentials
- ✓ Launching Microsoft Edge requires a PIN or account credentials

Manage family members
Set restrictions on kids' accounts or add and remove family members.
- 🚫 Access to content is not restricted for all kids in your family

Family on the web
Control more with Microsoft account family settings.
- ⚠ Activity reporting is not enabled for all kids in your family
- ⚠ Screen time is not enabled for all kids in your family
  (If you recently changed screen time, your child will need to sign in before this is refreshed.)

Access restrictions
Prevent workarounds through signing out or making new accounts.

2

Sheena ~~Pickham~~
✉ ~~sheena@outlook.com~~

💠 **Spending**
Payments & purchases

⚙ **Settings**
Manage

Switch family member
👤👤

🪟 Windows   Ⓧ Xbox   Ⓔ Edge   📱 Mobile

Screen time

Add Sheena's devices to get started

For screen time features to work, Sheena will need to sign in to a Windows device.

How to connect a device

Devices   Apps and games

Family Safety

Devices   Apps and games

Create healthy habits with screen time limits for Sheena's devices. See how much time Sheena has left for the day, give them more time, or decide time's up. Set or edit time limits for their Xbox devices below.

🔓 Lock devices   No devices locked

Ⓧ **Xbox consoles**
   XBOX

Screen time limits are turned off for Xbox console. Currently, Sheena can use their Xbox console as much as they want.
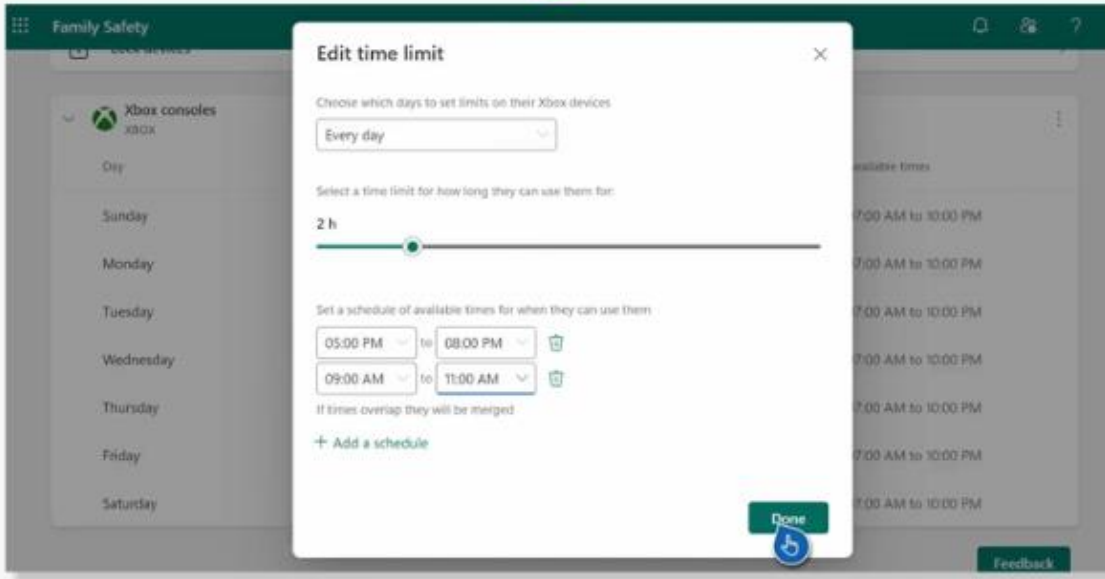
Turn limits on

Family Safety   🔔 👥 ?

Lock devices   No devices located

Ⓧ **Xbox consoles**
   XBOX   ⋮

Day	Time limit	Availab...	Edit limits
			Turn limits off
			How to connect a device
Sunday	15 h	07:00 A...	
Monday	15 h	07:00 AM to 10:00 PM	
Tuesday	15 h	07:00 AM to 10:00 PM	
Wednesday	15 h	07:00 AM to 10:00 PM	
Thursday	15 h	07:00 AM to 10:00 PM	
Friday	15 h	07:00 AM to 10:00 PM	
Saturday	15 h	07:00 AM to 10:00 PM	

Feedback

5

Family Safety

Xbox consoles
XBOX

Edit time limit   ✕

Choose which days to set limits on their Xbox devices

Every day

Select a time limit for how long they can use them for:

2 h

Set a schedule of available times for when they can use them

| 05:00 PM | to | 08:00 PM | 🗑 |
| 09:00 AM | to | 11:00 AM | 🗑 |

If times overlap they will be merged

+ Add a schedule

Day	available times
Sunday	7:00 AM to 10:00 PM
Monday	7:00 AM to 10:00 PM
Tuesday	7:00 AM to 10:00 PM
Wednesday	7:00 AM to 10:00 PM
Thursday	7:00 AM to 10:00 PM
Friday	7:00 AM to 10:00 PM
Saturday	7:00 AM to 10:00 PM

Done

Feedback

4

Set regular screen time breaks

In addition to screen time management available with Xbox Series X|S, you can set regular screen time breaks.

This is a reminder for children to get moving in between video game sessions.

To set screen time breaks:

Step 1 – From your child's Xbox account on the console, navigate to **Settings > Preferences > Break reminder.**

Step 2 – Enter or set your PIN and then choose an option from the **dropdown** menu.

For children under 13, **every 30 minutes** is ideal. For older children, **every hour** is okay.

Frequent breaks where they get moving and give their eyes a break is key.
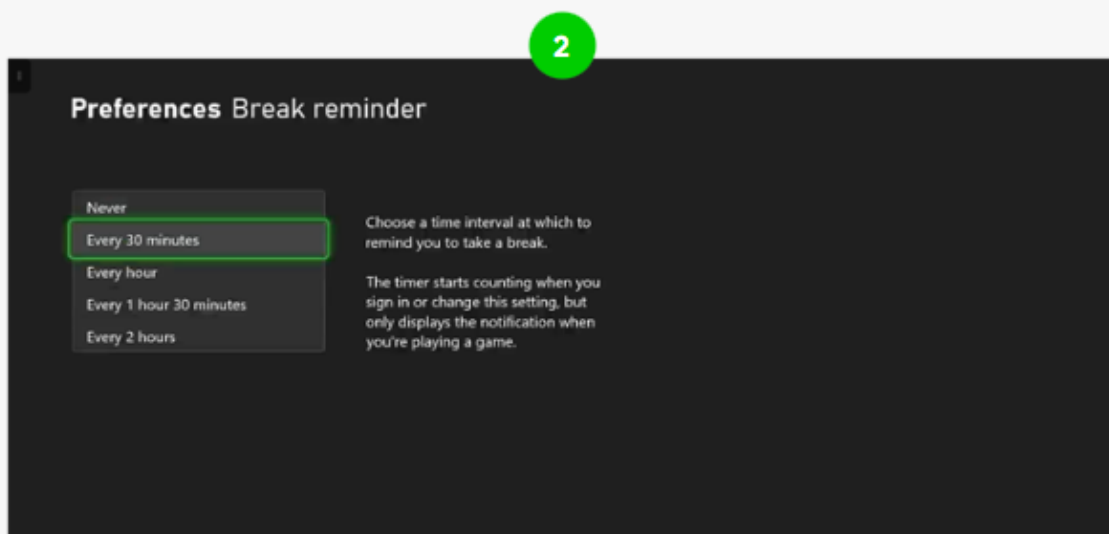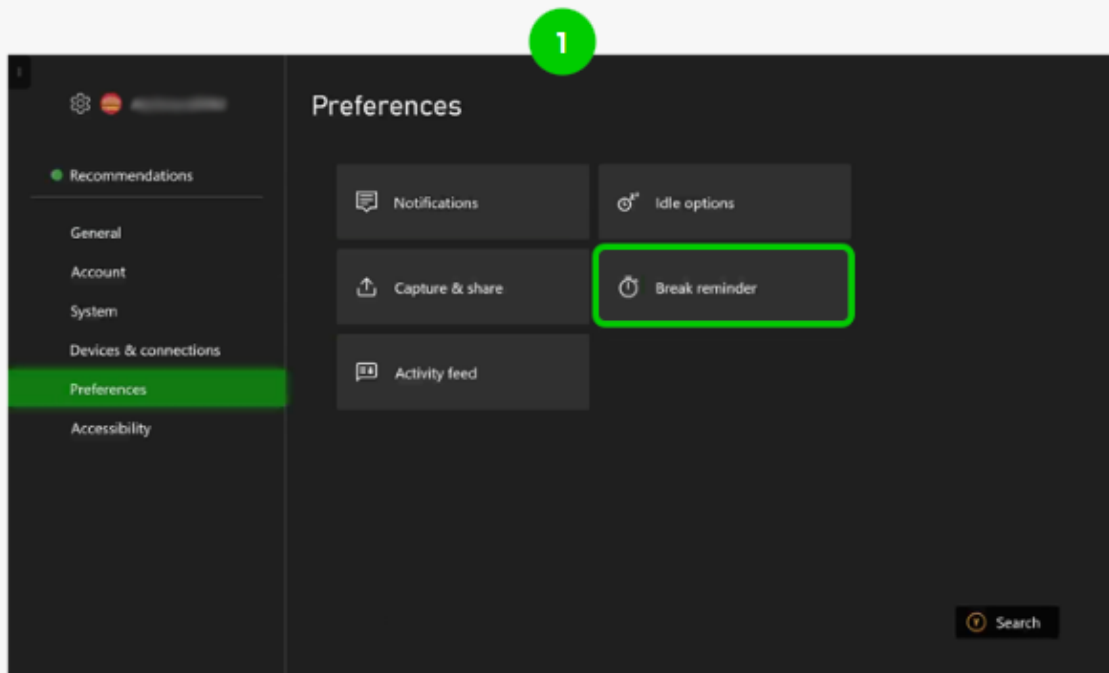
5

Manage communication between users

With Xbox Series X|S, you can customise who your child can communicate with in video games and the wider Xbox community.

You can choose from Child and Teen defaults or customise these settings to your child's needs.

To customise communication between users:

Step 1 – Access the **Family settings** menu under **Online safety & family**. Select **Manage family members**.

Step 2 – Choose the **user** you want to customise and select **Privacy & online safety > Xbox privacy**.

Step 3 – **View details & customise > Communication & multiplayer**.

Step 4 – There are 5 settings to customise. Read through them and make choices with your child to keep them safe.

Multiplayer games: If allowed, your child can join multiplayer games. It does not allow them to communicate with others as this is a separate setting.

Cross-network play: If allowed, your child can play multiplayer games with other users outside of Xbox (for example, if others use a PlayStation or PC). This would allow your child to play games with their school friends even if they have different consoles.

Others can communicate: Choose between Everybody, Friends and Block to limit other users communicating with your child using voice or text, or who can send invites to parties, games or clubs.

Communication outside of Xbox: Decide who your child can communicate with using voice or text on other gaming consoles like PlayStation or on PCs.

Video for communication: Set who your child can communicate with using video. If you personally know the children on their Friends list, you can select Friends. Otherwise, select Block.

Activity feed: Customise who can see your child's activity feed, such as which games they're playing.
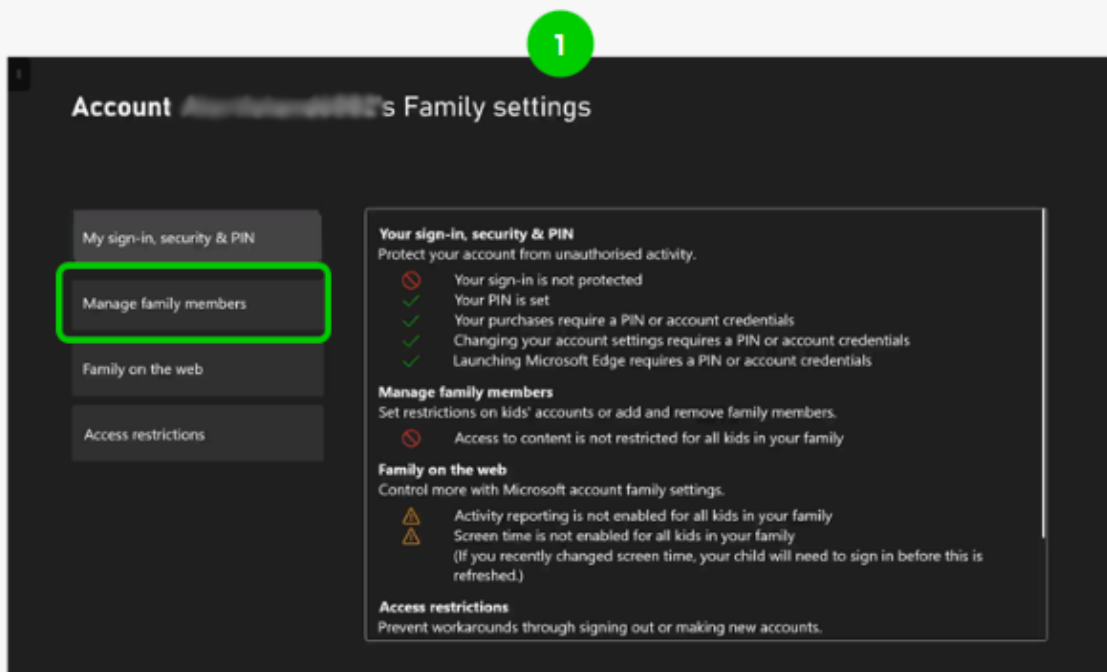
2

Account Privacy & online safety for Sheena

Choose settings

| Xbox privacy |
| App privacy |
| Message safety |

Manage your data

Optional diagnostic data
Not providing

Personalised recommendations
Allowed

Personalised ads
Not allowed

Manage the privileges and permissions for your Xbox profile.

3

Account Xbox privacy for Sheena

Manage the privileges and permissions for your Xbox profile.

Online status & history	Sharing outside of Xbox
Profile	Buy & download
Friends & clubs	
Communication & multiplayer	
Game content	

Settings include:
- Joining multiplayer games
- Playing with people outside of Xbox
- Others communicating with voice/text/invites
- Using video for communications
- Others seeing your activity feed

4

Account Communication & multiplayer for Sheena

ers can communicate with e, text, or invites	You can communicate outside of Xbox with voice & text	You can use video for communications	Others can see your activity feed
de who on Xbox to municate with using voice ext, and who sends you ations to parties, games, or	Decide whether to communicate using voice & text with people on gaming services outside of Xbox, such as PC and PlayStation.	Decide who to communicate with on Xbox using video.	Decide who can see what you post to your activity feed.

			Everybody
			Friends
ds ⌄	Block ⌄	Block ⌄	Block

6

How to manage content restrictions

Xbox Series X|S parental controls lets you set limits to which content your child can access based on their age.

To set content restrictions:

Step 1 – From the console **home screen**, select **Settings** in the top menu.

Step 2 – Under **General**, select **Online safety & family > Family settings**.

Step 3 – Select Manage family members, then choose the **user** you'd like to set restrictions for. Select **Access to content**.
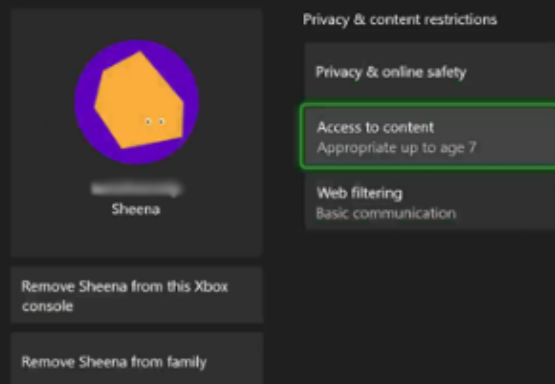
Step 4 – Use the **dropdown** box to select your child's **age**. As you do, you will see which content they can access based on their age.

For example, if you select 13, your child will be able to access content rated up to 12 (as there is no 13 rating).

General Online safety & family

Privacy & online safety

Family settings

Manage console access and Xbox profiles for people in your Microsoft family group.

3

Account Sheena's privacy and online safety settings

Sheena

Remove Sheena from this Xbox console

Remove Sheena from family

Privacy & content restrictions

Privacy & online safety

Access to content
Appropriate up to age 7

Web filtering
Basic communication

4

Appropriate up to age 16

Appropriate up to age 15

Appropriate up to age 14

Appropriate up to age 13

Appropriate up to age 12

Appropriate up to age 11

Appropriate up to age 10

:trictions

Ratings for UNITED KINGDOM

12 PEGI Games
For ages 12 and over

12 Films
For ages 12 and over

12 TV
For ages 12 and over

12 Music
For ages 12 and over

12 PEGI Apps
For ages 12 and over

7

Where to review Xbox privacy settings

You can customise your privacy settings on Xbox Series X|S for each user.

In this section, you can limit who can see your child's profile, information and activity.

If you've already chosen a **Child** default in this section, your child's profile is private. You can review individual settings, however, to make sure they work for your child.

To review privacy settings:

Step 1 – Access the Xbox **Settings** menu and navigate to **Family settings** under **Online safety & family**. Select **Manage family members**.

Step 2 – Choose the **user** you want to customise and select **Privacy & online safety**.

Step 3 – Select **Xbox privacy > View details & customise**.

Step 4 – Go through each option and **customise the settings**.

Online status & history: Customise who can see if your child is online, what they're doing and their game and app history.

Profile: Customise who can see your child's profile details and real name. You can also block or allow your child to see other Xbox profiles.
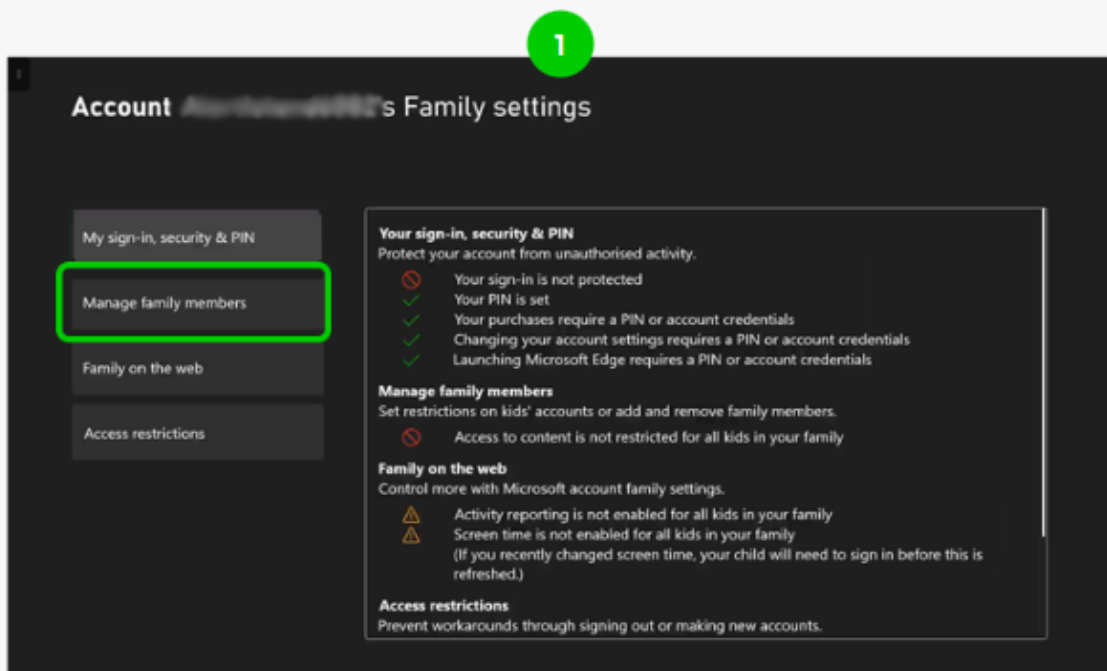
Friends & clubs: Customise whether your child can add new friends or join clubs. You can also block others from seeing their friends' list and club memberships.

Communication & multiplayer: See here.

Game content: Customise whether your child can share content such as screenshots and live streams with others. You can also select who can see your child's captures and whether your child can share content made with a connected camera.
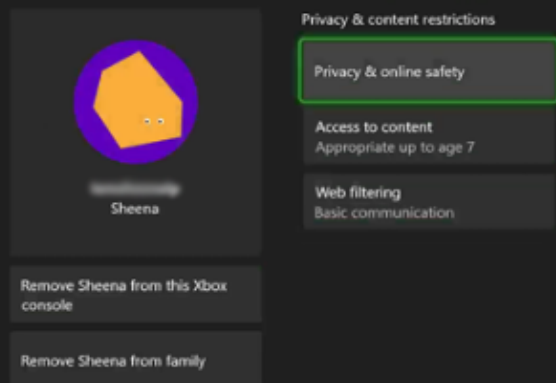
Sharing outside of Xbox: Customise whether your child can share game content on social media or other places outside of the Xbox network.
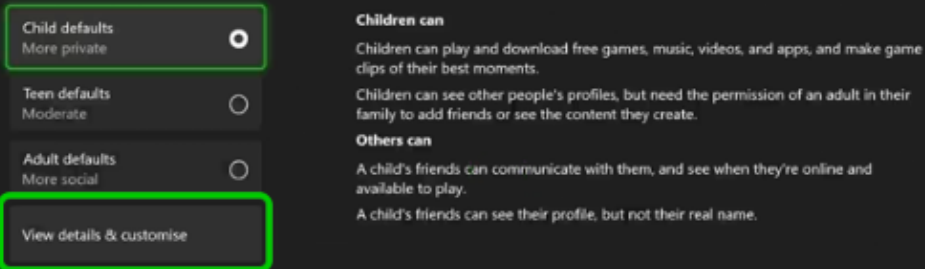
Buy & download: See here.

Account Sheena's privacy and online safety settings

Privacy & content restrictions

Sheena

Remove Sheena from this Xbox console

Remove Sheena from family

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Appropriate up to age 7

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Teen defaults
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Adult defaults
More social

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Account Xbox privacy for Sheena

Manage the privileges and permissions for your Xbox profile.

Online status & history	Sharing outside of Xbox
Profile	Buy & download
Friends & clubs	
Communication & multiplayer	
Game content	

Settings include:
• Others seeing if you're online
• Others seeing what you watch and listen to
• Others seeing your game/app history