

The logo for internet matters.org, featuring the text "internet matters.org" in white lowercase letters on a solid green rectangular background.

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The Xbox Series X|S logo, with the word "SERIES" written vertically on the left, followed by a large "X" and "S" separated by a vertical bar.

SERIES X|S

Xbox Series X|S Parental Controls

Controls & settings 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.

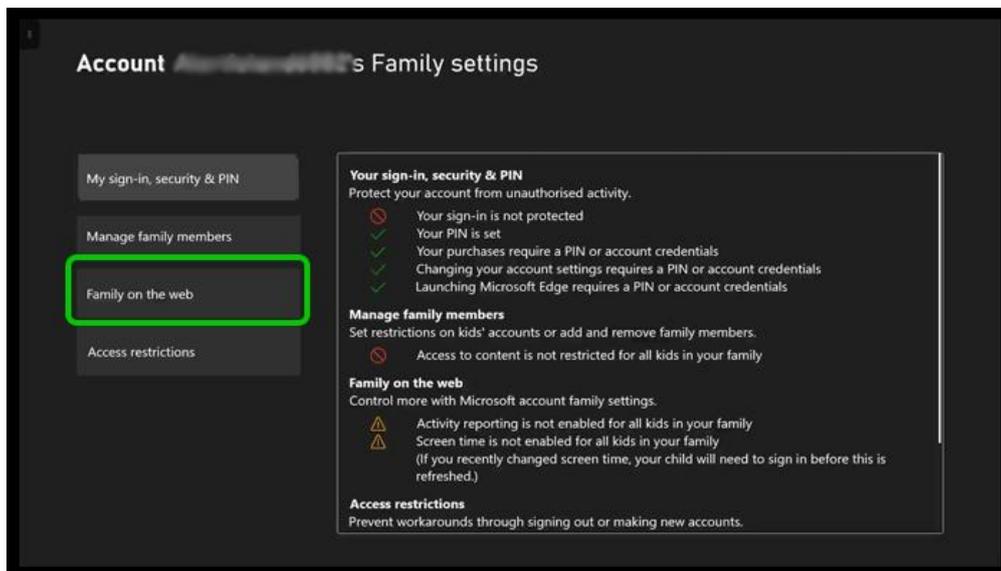
1 How to set in-game spending restrictions

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

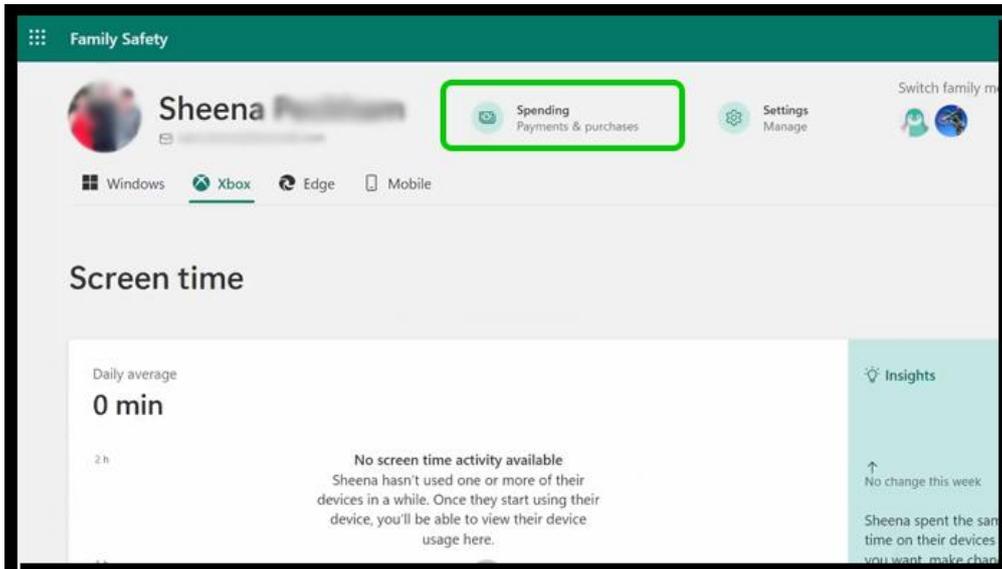
To help limit accidental spending, you can use Xbox Series parental controls settings.

To set spending limits with Microsoft Family:

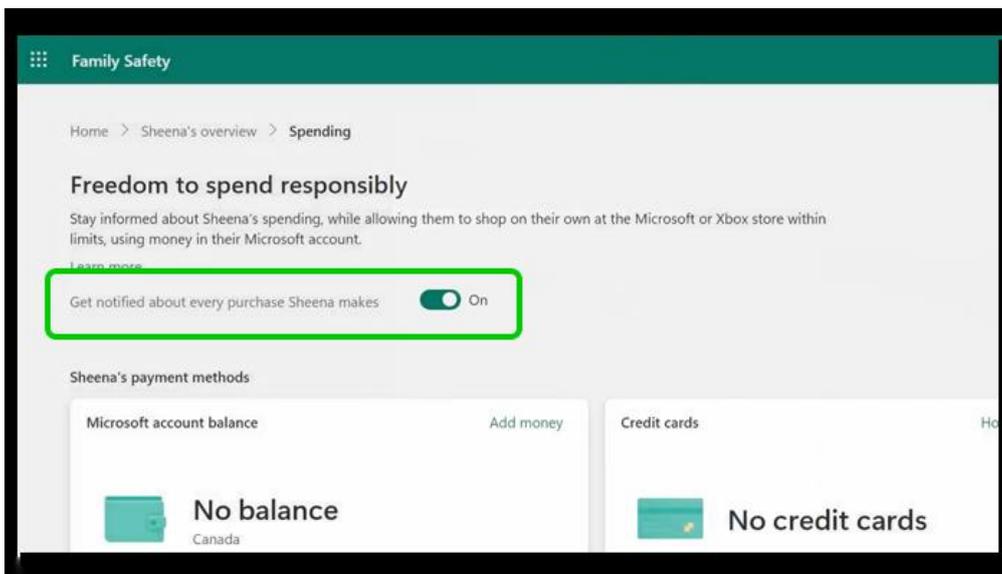
Step 1 – Open your **Microsoft Family app**. Or go to **Settings > General > Online safety & family > Family settings** and select **Family on the web**. You will need to enter or set a PIN to access this.



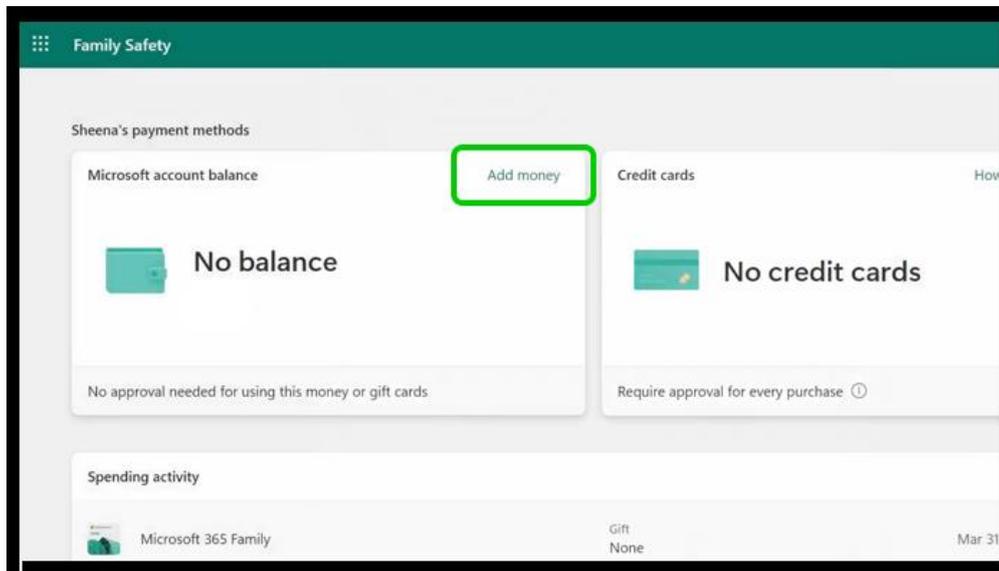
Step 2 – Select the **family member** you wish to set restrictions for. Then, select **Spending** from the top of the screen.



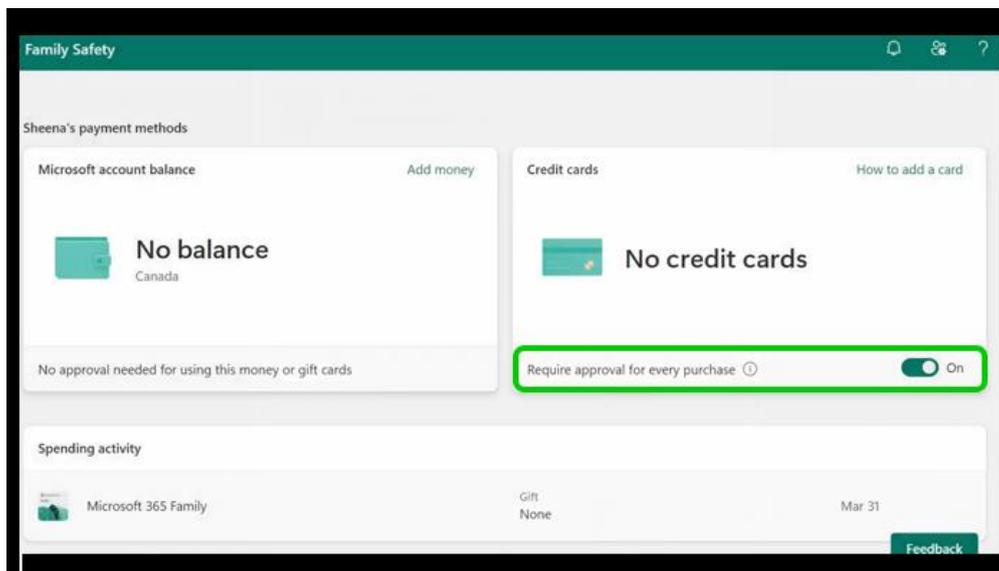
Step 3 – Next to **Get notified about every purchase [Child] makes**, turn the toggle to green (On). This will help you oversee their purchases.



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**.

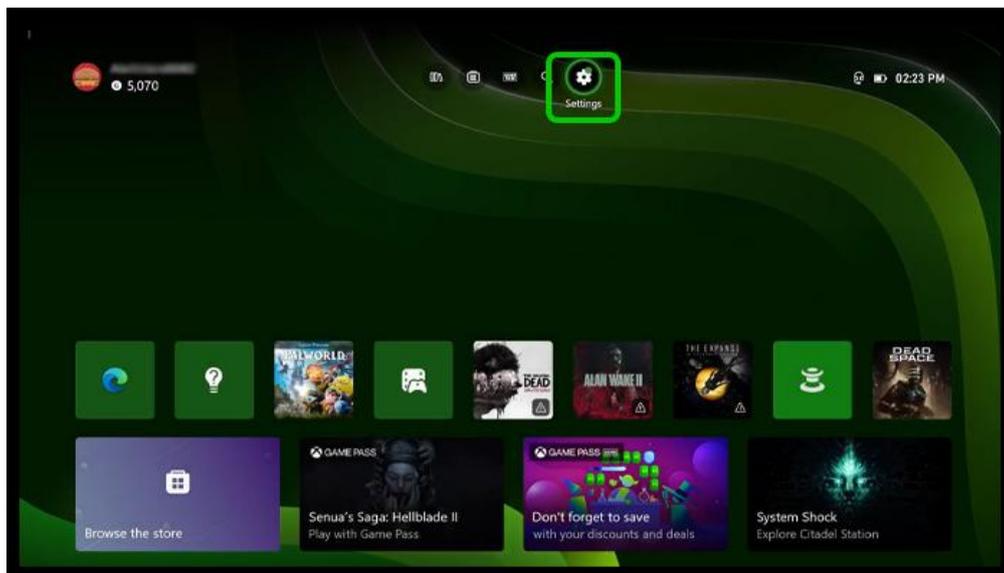


2 Limit buying and downloading

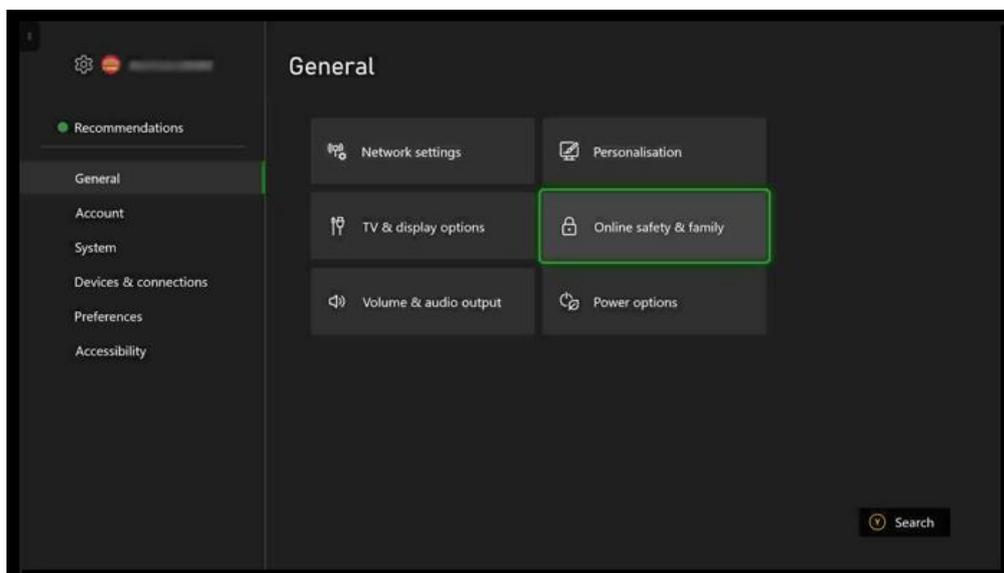
In addition to Microsoft Family spending restrictions, you can turn off buying and downloading on the Xbox Series X|S console.

To turn on buying and downloading limits:

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



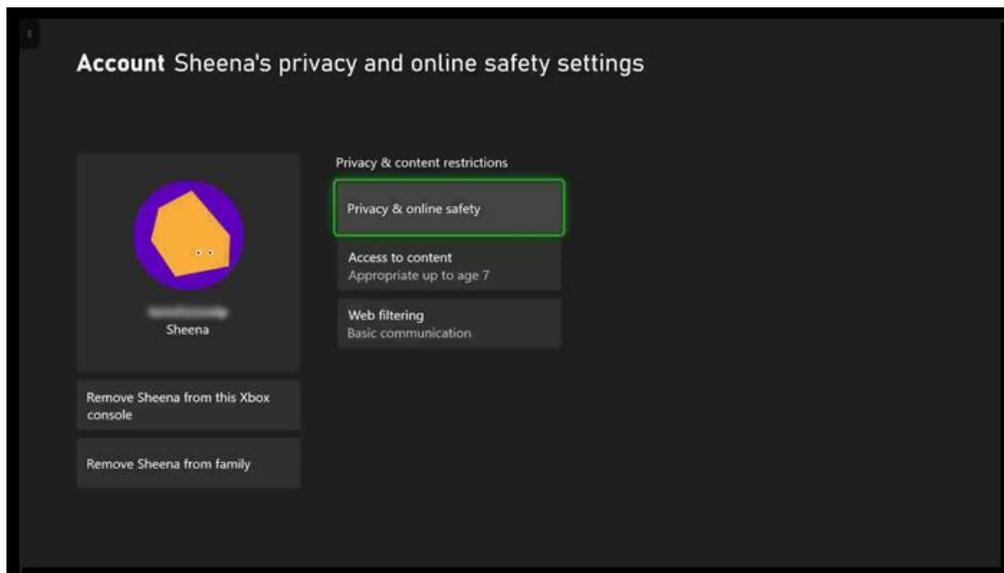
Step 2 – Under **General**, select **Online safety & family > Family settings**. You will need to enter or set a PIN.



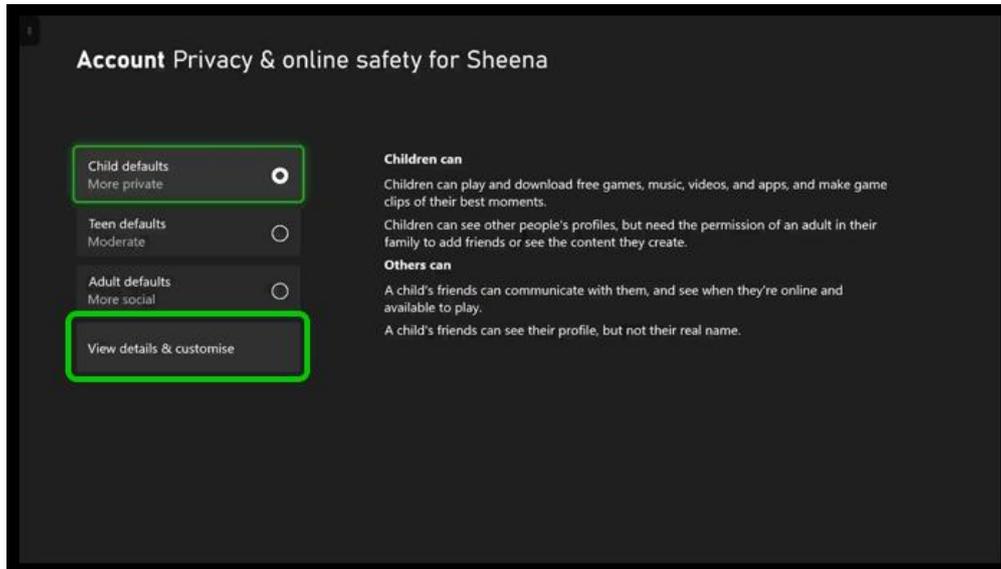
Step 3 – Select **Manage family members**. Either add a **new user** or select an **existing user**. Then, select **Privacy & online safety**.



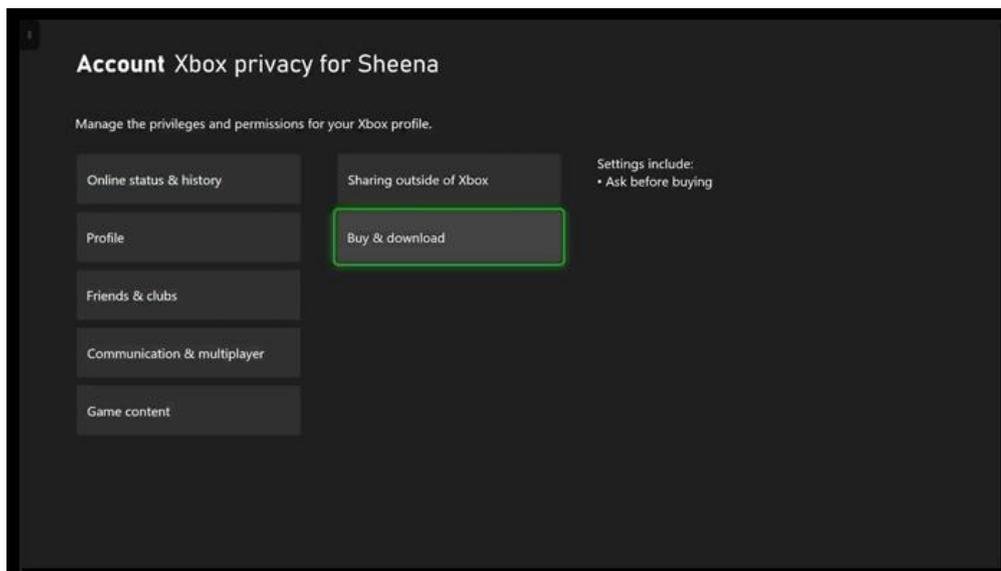
Step 4 – Select **Xbox privacy**.



Step 5 – Choose the **Child defaults** 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.



3

Where to manage screen time for Xbox Series X|S

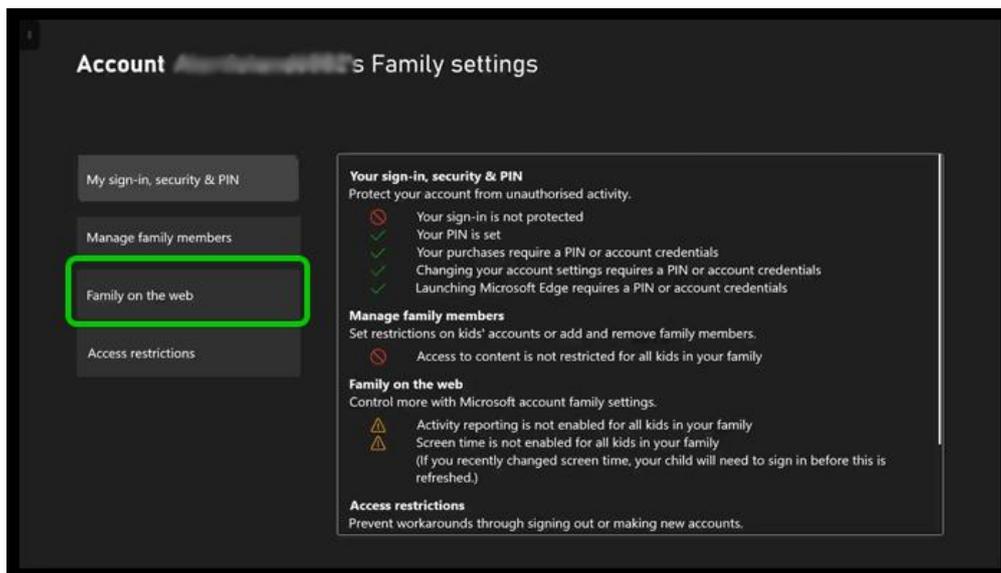
Many children report feeling like they spend too much time online. Those who play video games are more likely to say this than non-gamers.

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

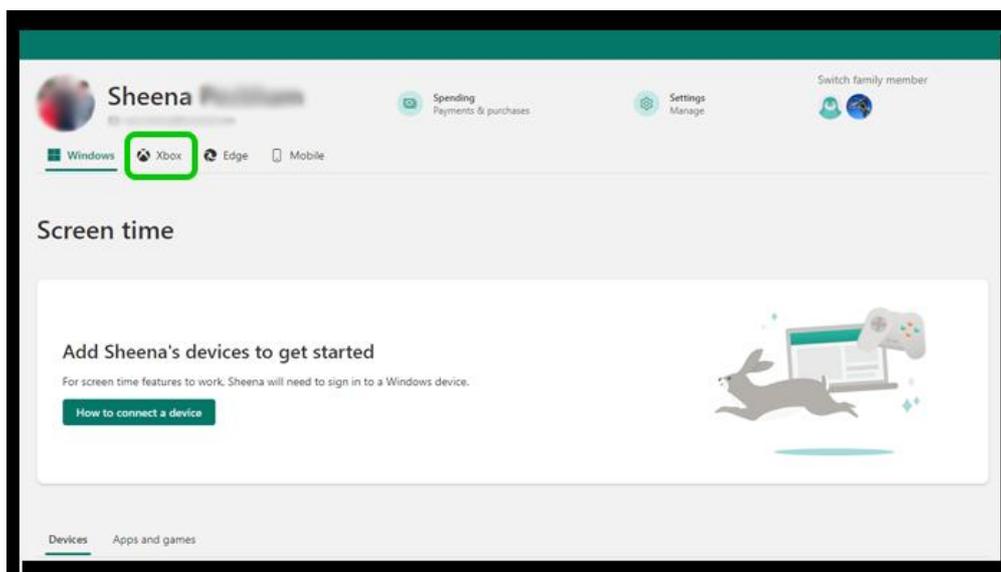
Microsoft Family.

To manage screen time with Xbox:

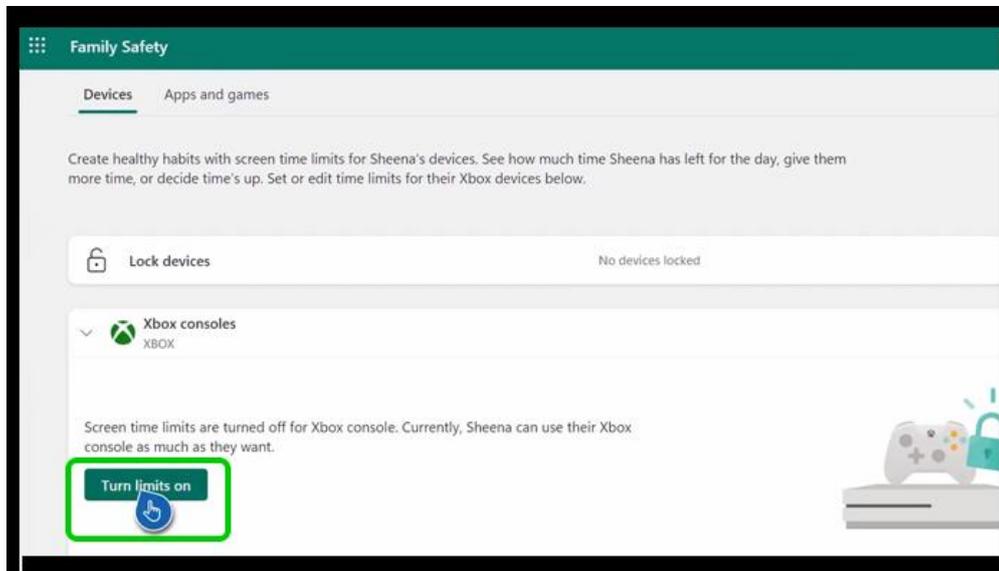
Step 1 – Access your **Microsoft Family app**. Or, on the Xbox Series console, go to **Settings > General > Online safety & family > Family settings** menu and select **Family on the web**. You must enter or set a PIN.



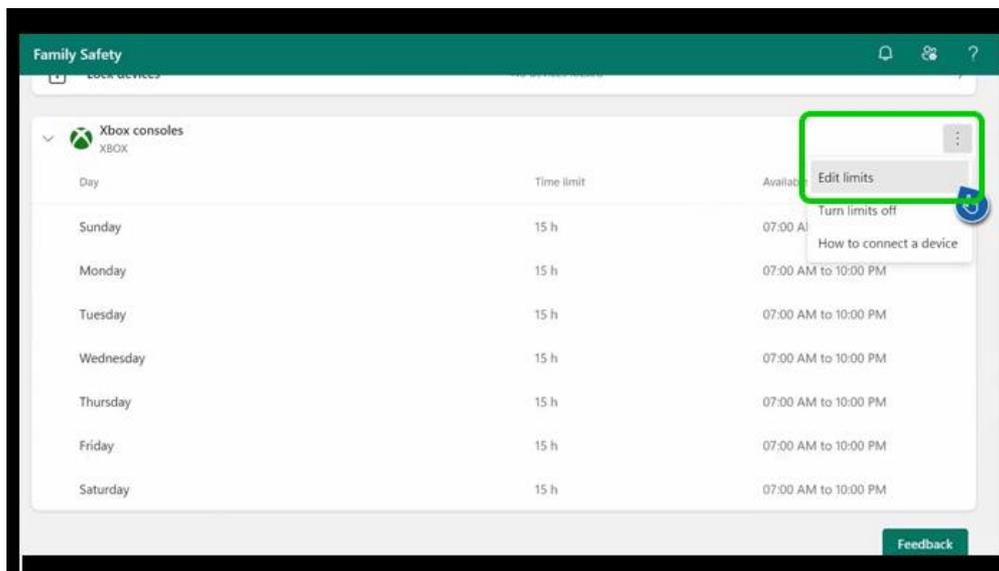
Step 2 – Choose your **child's account** and then navigate to the **Xbox tab**. Here, you will see a screen time overview. If you don't, you will need to add your child's console first.



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



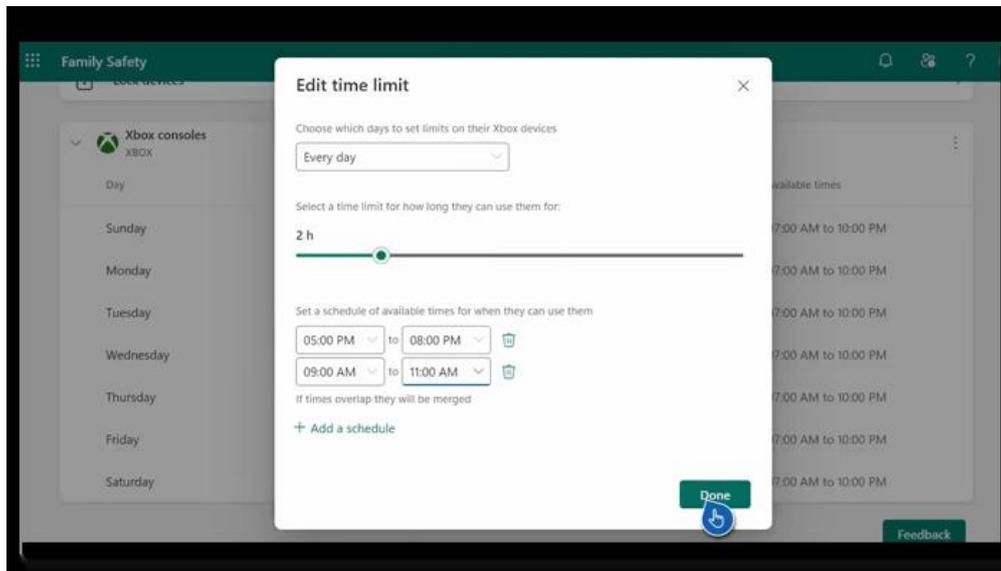
Step 4 – In the top right corner, select the **3 dots** and **Edit limits**.



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.



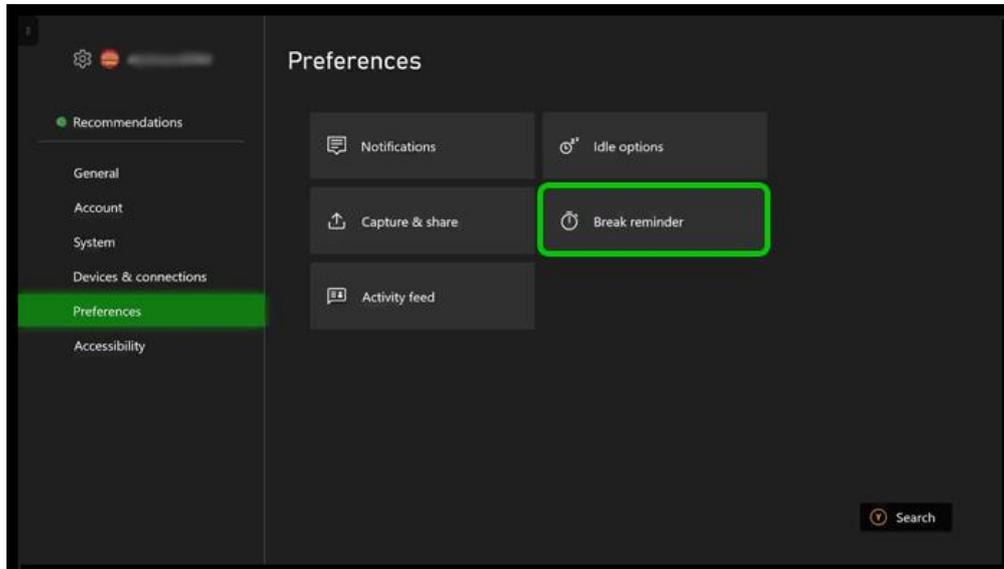
4 Set regular screen time breaks

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:

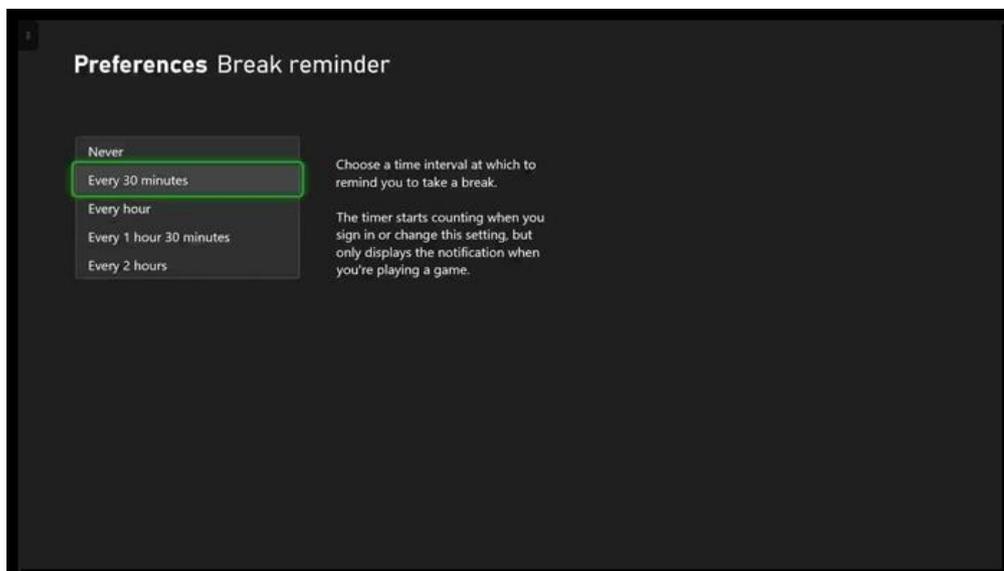
Step 1 – From your child's Xbox account on the console, navigate to **Settings > Preferences > Break reminder**.



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.



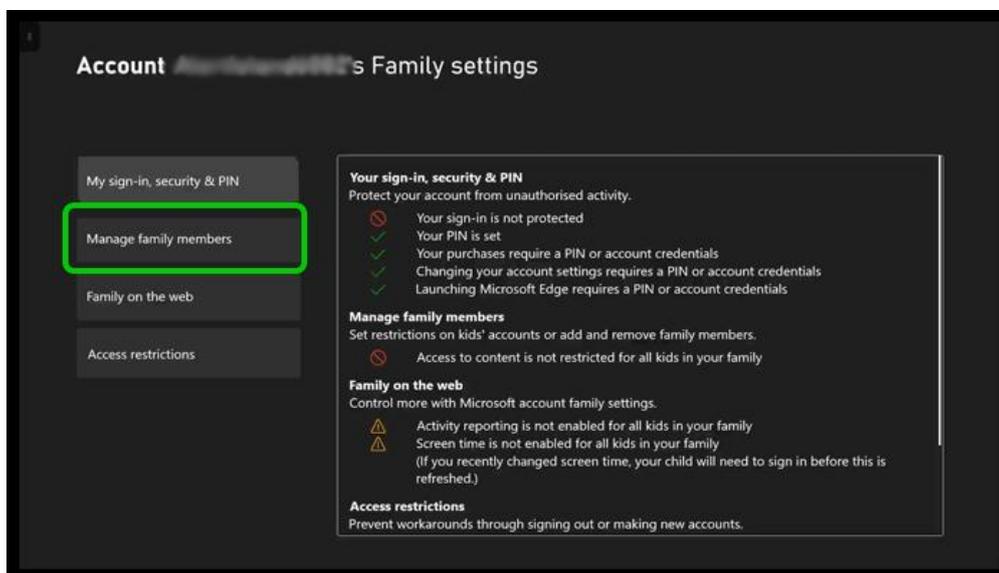
5 Manage communication between users

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

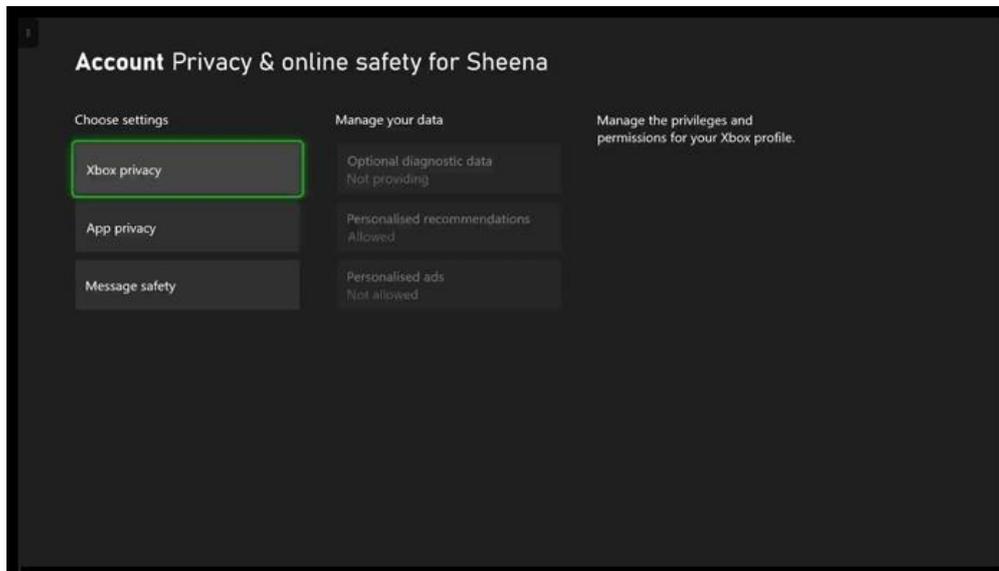
You can choose from Child and Teen defaults or customise these settings to your child's needs.

To customise communication between users:

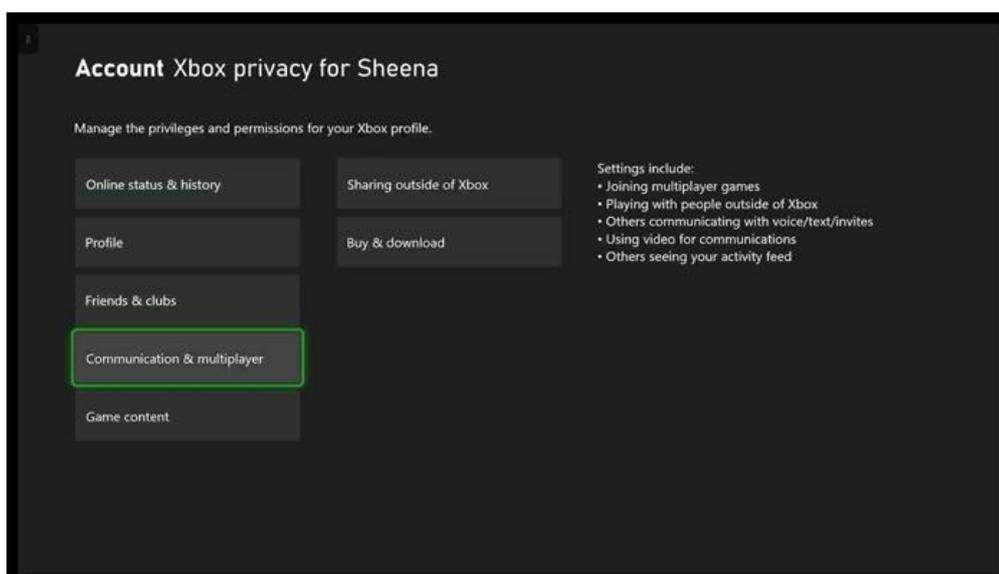
Step 1 – Access the **Family** settings menu under **Online safety & family**. Select **Manage family members**.



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.

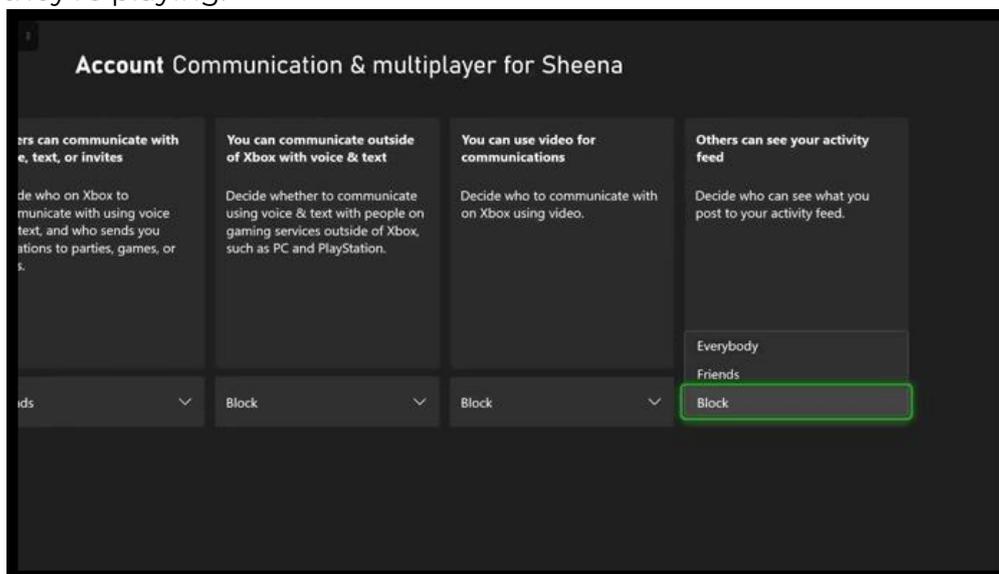
Others can communicate: Choose between Everybody, Friends and Block to limit

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.



6 How to manage content restrictions

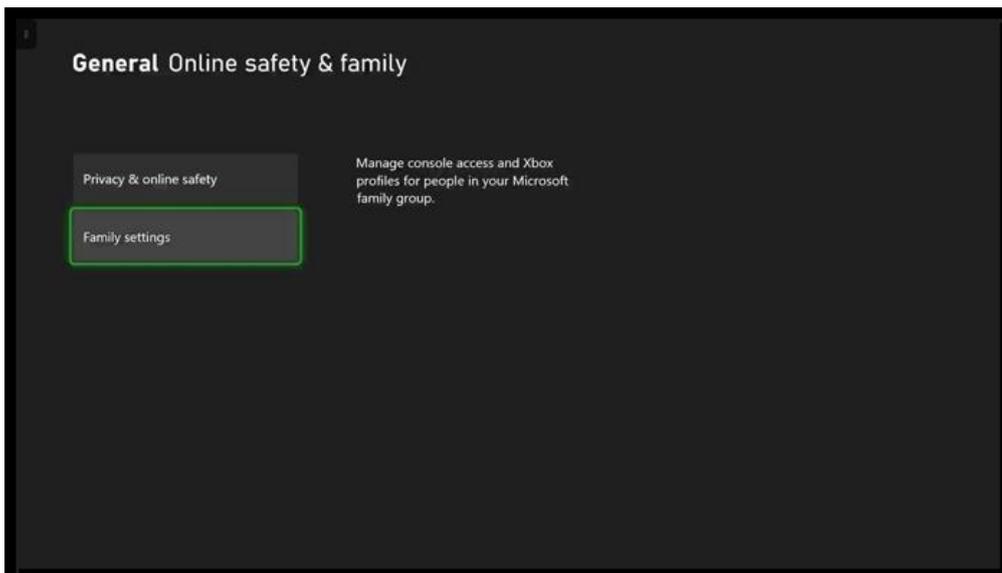
Xbox Series X|S parental controls lets you set limits to which content your child can access based on their age.

To set content restrictions:

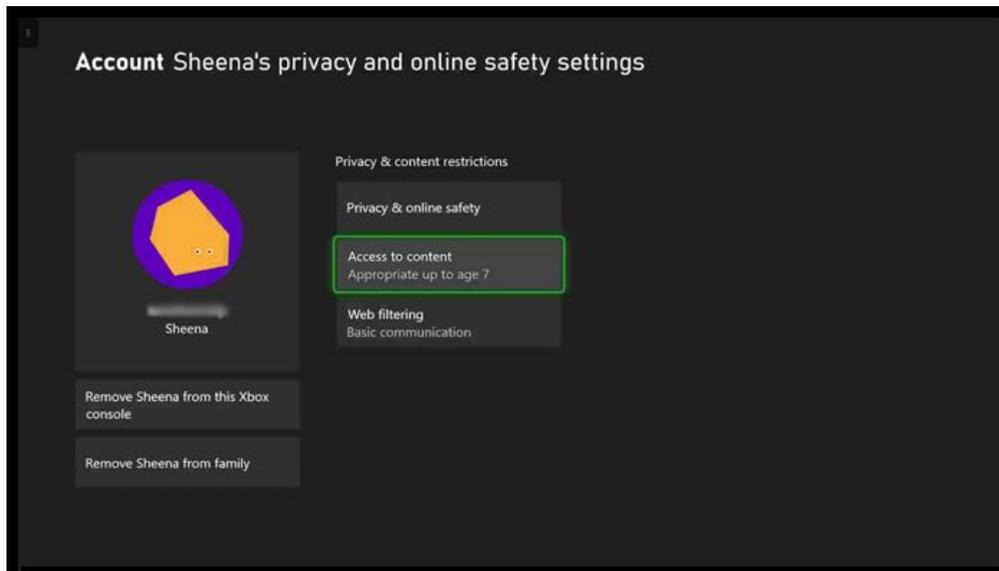
Step 1 – From the console **home screen**, select **Settings** in the top menu.



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

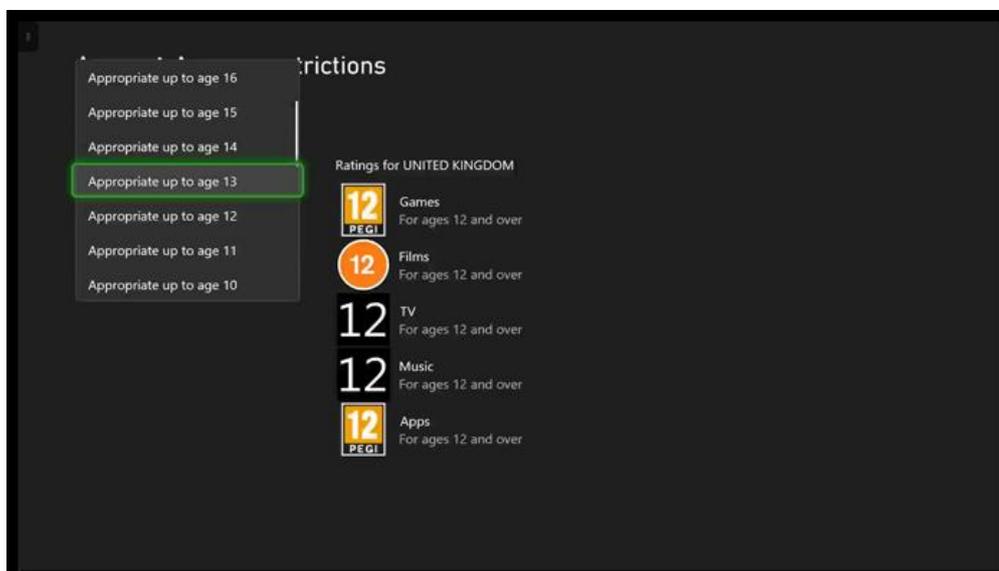


Step 3 – Select Manage family members, then choose the **user** you'd like to set restrictions for. Select **Access to content**.



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).



7 Where to review Xbox privacy settings

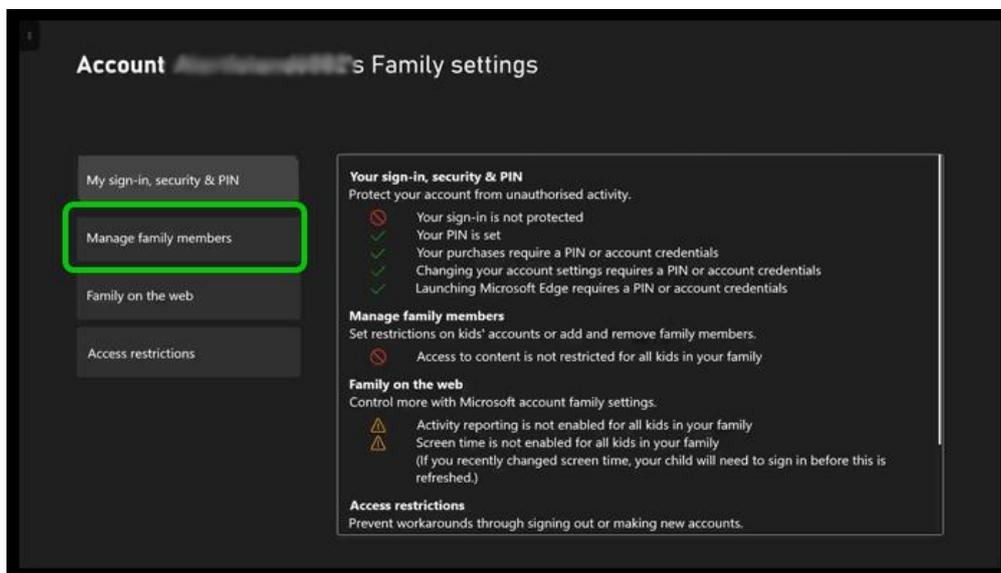
You can customise your privacy settings on Xbox Series X|S for each user.

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

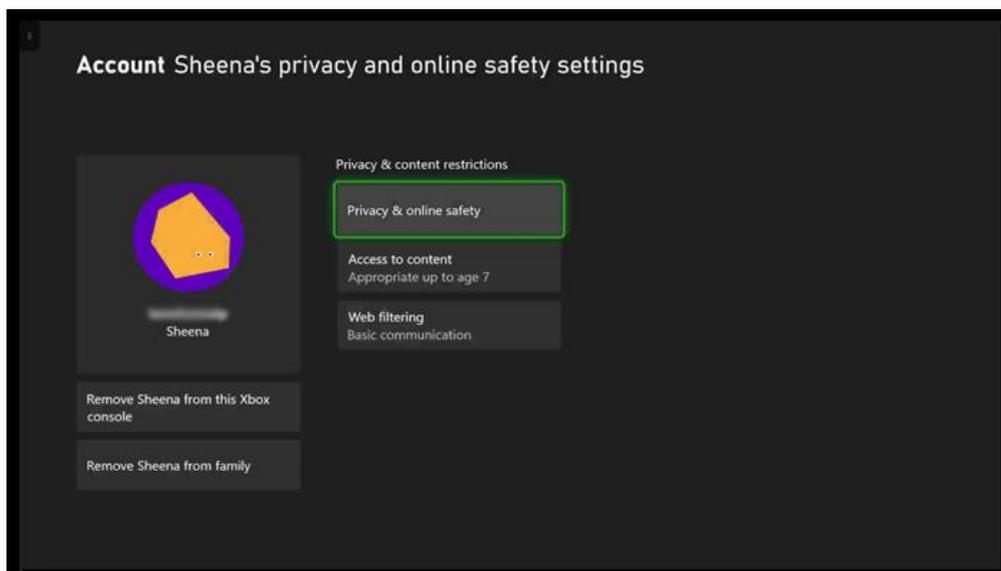
If you've already chosen a Child default in this section, your child's profile is private. You can review individual settings, however, to make sure they work for your child.

To review privacy settings:

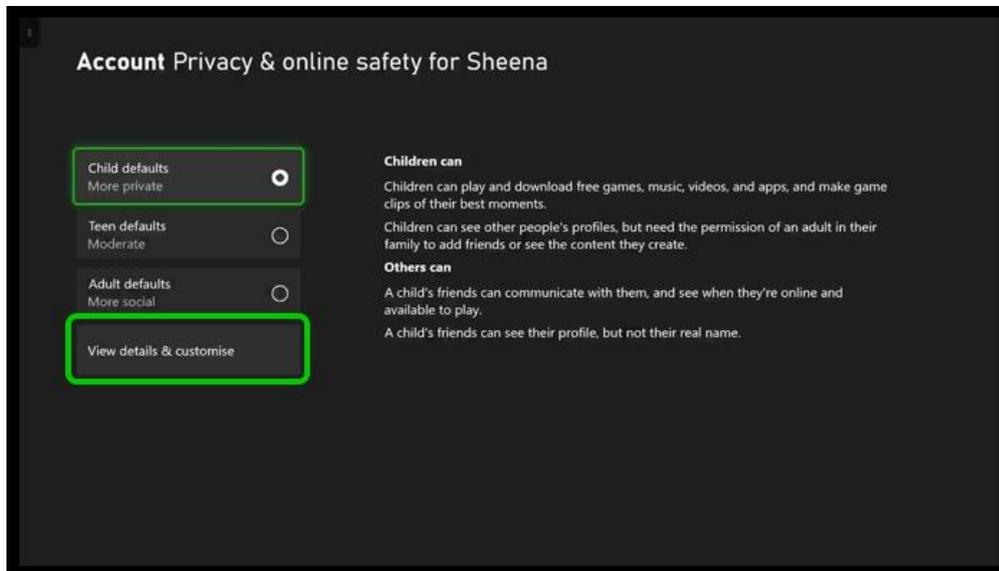
Step 1 – Access the Xbox **Settings** menu and navigate to **Family settings** under **Online safety & family**. Select **Manage family members**.



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](#).

