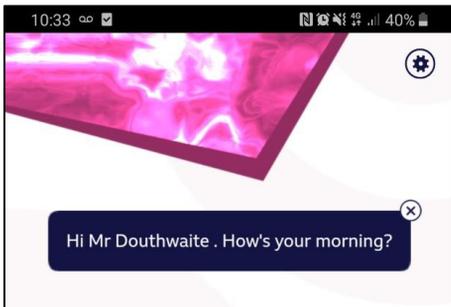# BBC Own IT App
Information for Parents

West Kirby Grammar School

Overview of the App

Own IT is an app produced by the BBC which is due for official release next month. It is available now for free download on iPhone and Android devices.

Own IT provides a number of features to support children in their online activities. It can also monitor their phone/app use time and, perhaps the most unique feature, provides real time feedback on their online actions through the use of a 'smart' keyboard.
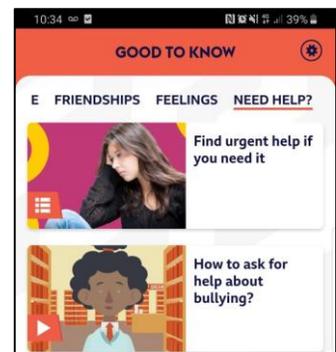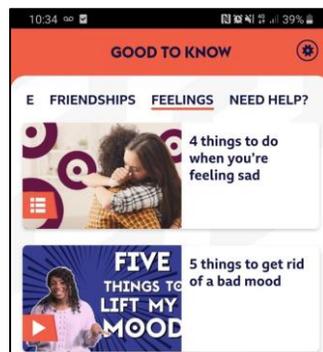
Recording emotions / advice and support

The app allows children keep a diary of their emotions to allow them to record how they're feeling and why. In response, the app can offer help and support, giving advice if their behaviour strays outside safe and sensible norms. Children can access the app at any time to get instant, on-screen advice and support the moment they need it.

Recording current mood

Links to advice and support

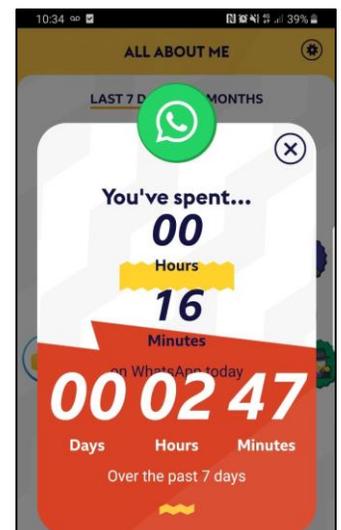## Monitoring phone and app use over time

The app allows for monitoring of the time spent using the phone and also the time spent on each individual app. This may be useful in either setting limits or just getting students to think about how much time they spend online.

My app use over the last 7 days

Overall phone use over the Last 7 days (this surprised me!)

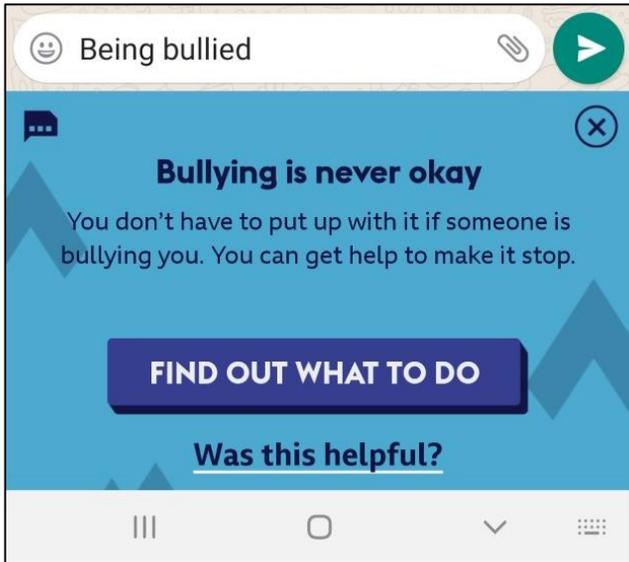*Use of WhatsApp over the last 7 days*
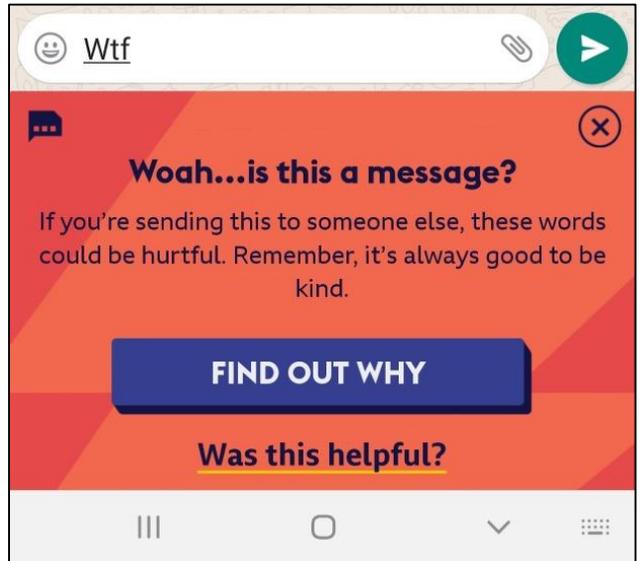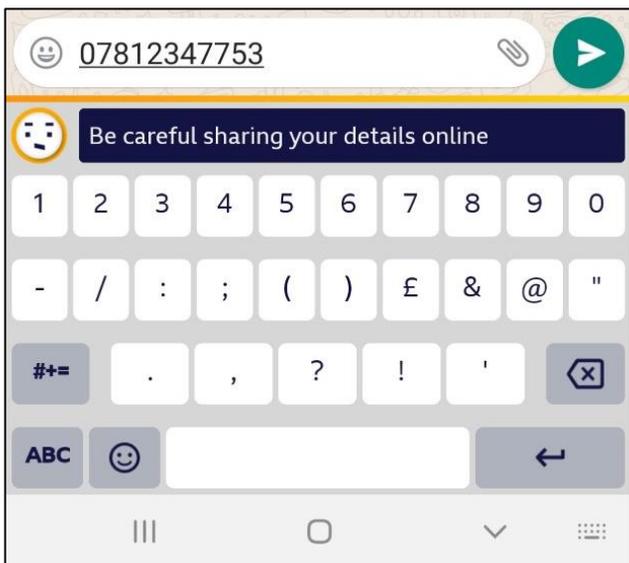
Special Keyboard

Perhaps the most unique feature of this app is the 'Special Keyboard'. This keyboard is installed as part of the app but will appear any time a keyboard is used on the phone. It will monitor what is being typed and offers real-time, in-the-moment help and advice on whatever a child is typing, for example if a child is typing something which might be upsetting to the person receiving it. It can also recognise if a child types personal details and reminds them to think twice about whether it is safe to share. It can even recognise language that might suggest a child is in trouble and will offer them advice. I have tested the keyboard using the WhatsApp messaging app.
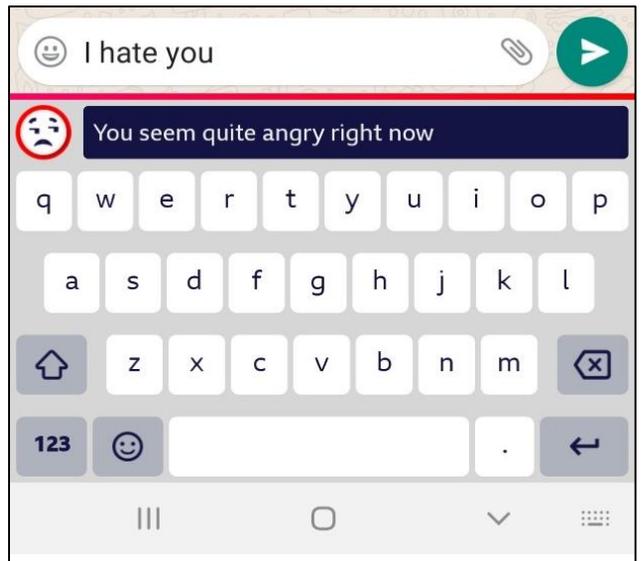

Recognises key words and directs towards suitable advice

Possibly offensive message. Think twice.

App suspecting personal data is being shared

Detecting emotions (pressing on the icon offers advice)

For more information about the app, please feel free to contact me at wdouthwaite@wkgs.net or visit the BBC Own It web page:

https://www.bbc.co.uk/mediacentre/latestnews/2019/own-it