



# MIMBRE YOUTH REPORT SEPT 2022 – JULY 2023

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- Parents 2023

## What we do

Mimbre Youth was founded in 2008 and is rooted in the communities of Mimbre's local borough of Hackney. It includes acrobatics and streetdance classes, community days, performance projects and progression routes. It is a place where young people can express themselves creatively, gain confidence and work as a team. Mimbre Youth focuses on access, inclusion and excellence, and pulls down barriers to enable every child to thrive and find their own creative expressions, regardless of means or abilities.

We run weekly classes for three age groups, 5-7, 7-9 and 10-16, during term time as well as

Classes take place at Milton Garden Community Hall in Hackney in collaboration with Milton Gardens Tenant and Resident Association. Older participants co-create the programme in terms of content, themes and structure, and we use previous feedback from all participants and parents to evolve and direct each term.

You can watch an Instagram reel / YouTube short promoting the youth programme here:

<https://www.youtube.com/shorts/R5BTgjZkQOY>



Class numbers for the 2022-2023 academic year

	Participants	Total attendances	% from the global majority	% from low-income backgrounds
<b>Autumn term 2022</b>	45	332	53%	56%
<b>Spring term 2023</b>	44	369	50%	57%
<b>Summer Term 2023</b>	46	327	52%	48%

## Additional activities

In November 2022, four of Mimbre's young people attended a week of Black History Month-inspired events run by the National Centre of Circus Arts.

In January 2023, 67 young people, parents and carers attended the dress rehearsal of Cirque du Soleil's show, *Kurios: Cabinet of Curiosities*, at the Royal Albert Hall.

"Last night was a fantastic opportunity for me and A, never would we be able to go and see such a show. I don't have words to thank and show my real gratitude for your attention." Parent 2023

In early April 2023, four of Mimbre's young people attended the National Youth Circus Event at the National Centre for Circus Arts, and one young person also attended a CircUnity day at the National Centre following on from the Black History Month project they ran in November.



## Highlights

"This is the best place i've ever been"

"Improved her self-esteem, harnessed positive relationships outside of school, community environment, learning challenging skills."

74% of parents/cares said Mimbres classes helped improve their child's strength.

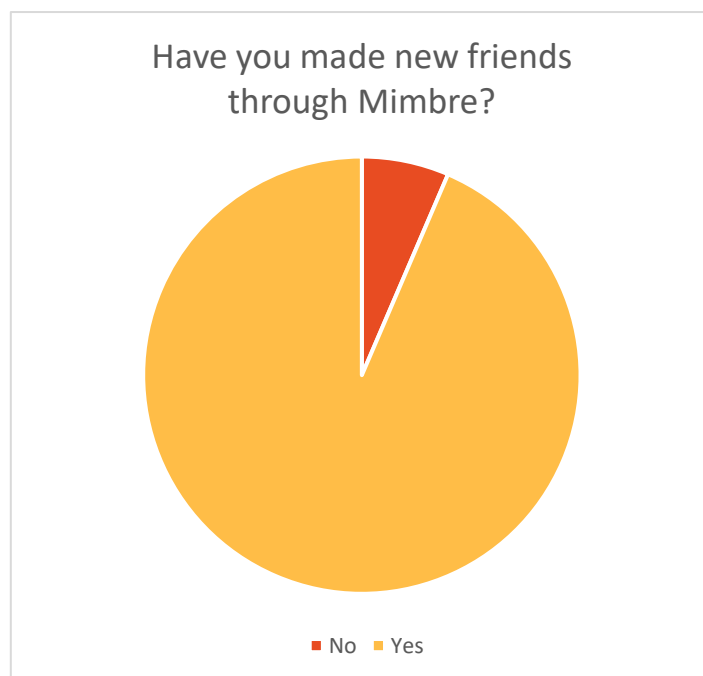
"each class we do things I love"

"Kids look forward to class, building friendships, developing strength, enjoy learning, unique compared to other classes"

95% of parents/carers said Mimbres classes improved their child's confidence.

"She really enjoys the sessions and feels supported by teachers she feels confident to try things in a safe environment".

"Aside from improving her physical strength and promoting the natural flexibility she has always had, my child has really benefitted from the process of setting personal goals and observing the techniques required to achieve them. She has really learned the importance of practising techniques to achieve goals and has been trying to apply this to other areas of life where she has set targets. Mimbres has helped promote her physical health but also is teaching valuable life lessons!!"



"It was great thanks! All the team, the organisation, the way the team treat and help the children with the right approach to every one of them".

## What our participants think

Term 1: autumn 2022



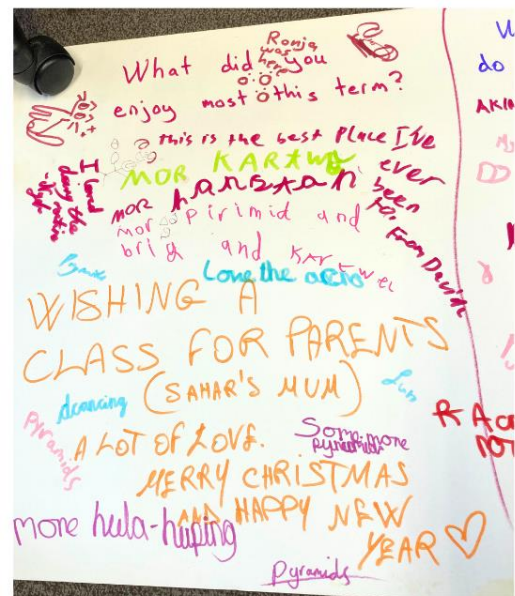
### What did you enjoy most?

- Pyramids
- Dancing
- Bridges and Cartwheels
- Doing the routine
- "This is the best place i've ever been" - David L (Midi group)

### What would you like to do more of next term?

- A bigger pyramid
- More pyramids (written by 5 people)
- More hula hooping
- "I would like more unusual things"
- Acro routines
- "Wishing for a class for parents" - Sahar's mum
- "A film night!"
- "Skipping"





Term 2: spring 2023



**What are the main things you enjoyed this term?**

pyramids acro dance, tumbling dancing, pyramids, AirTrackdancing,  
meeting people acrobatics AirTrack, dancing confidence pyramids  
bridges roly-poly dance, acro learning to do the bridge, having fun  
dancing, bridges pyramids pyramids dance, pyramids pyramids  
dance roly poly cartwheels air track choreography

**Do you feel like you have learnt new things?**

roundoff flick handspring, headstand yes yes front flip yes  
cartwheels walkover dance walkover shapes, pyramids  
choreography, performing handstand bridge working with a group  
bunny hops, bridges different pyramids yes improved confidence  
handstands cartwheels handstands

**How do you feel about performing your skills to an audience?**

ok really good unsure good good nervous, excited really  
good satisfying ok great, enjoyable okay happy shy nervous  
shy but good nervous but happy shy but good nervous strange  
nervous but happy happy

**Is there anything you want to do more of next term?**

AirTrack	pyramids	food	tumbling	pyramids	acro,
dance flips,	handstands	pyramids	splits, handspring	acrobatics	
warm-up	yes, more fun	acro	don't know	cartwheels, more	
dance walkover	silk	no	backbends, cartwheels and		
handstands	juggling	cartwheels	handstands		

**Is there anything you can think of to make the classes better?**

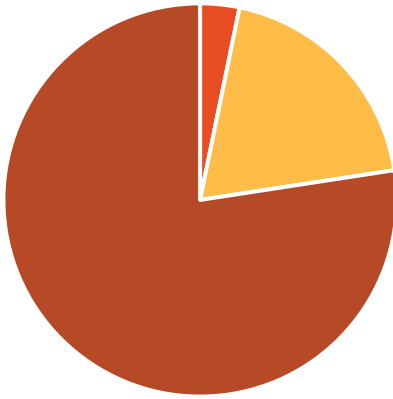
no	snacks	food	food	food	yes	challenges, acro
games, food	unsure	games		party	no	competitions within the
class	new music	performance on stage			games	games
longer classes		food				no





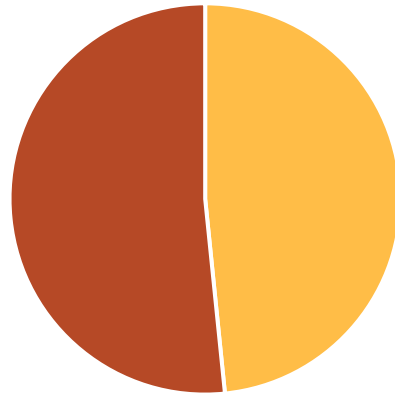
## Term 3: summer 2023

Did you enjoy the classes this year?



■ No ■ Yes a bit ■ Yes a lot

Do you feel like you learnt new skills and moves?



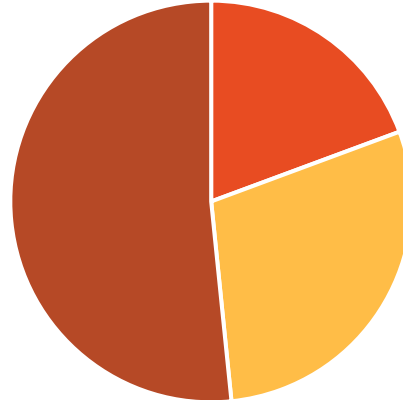
■ No ■ Yes a bit ■ Yes a lot

Do you feel like these classes have made you stronger?



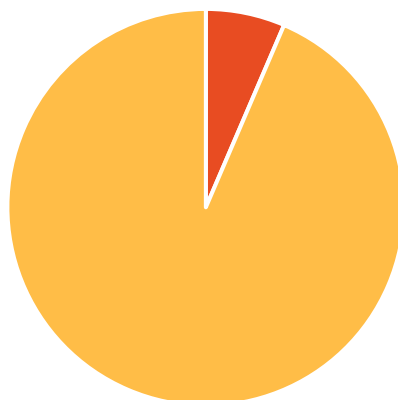
■ No ■ Yes a bit ■ Yes a lot

Do you feel like these classes have made you more confident?



■ No ■ Yes a bit ■ Yes a lot

Have you made new friends through Mimbre?



■ No ■ Yes

### What's your favourite thing about the classes?

"the dancing and pyramids"

"the freedom"

"everything, games gymnastics and pyramids"

"because the teachers are lovely"

"the tumble track"

"doing handstands"

"acrobatics. Nobody criticises the way I look"

"being ourselves and meeting new people"

"we try different moves"

"the acrobatics"

"dance"

"learning new skills"

"learning new moves"

"acrobatics"

"each class we do things I love"

"that you can get stronger"

"making new friends"

"dance, acrobatics"

"acrobatics"

"lots of acrobatics"

"playing games"

"we did gymnastics!"

"the dancing"

"seeing my friend"

"the acrobatics"

## Families

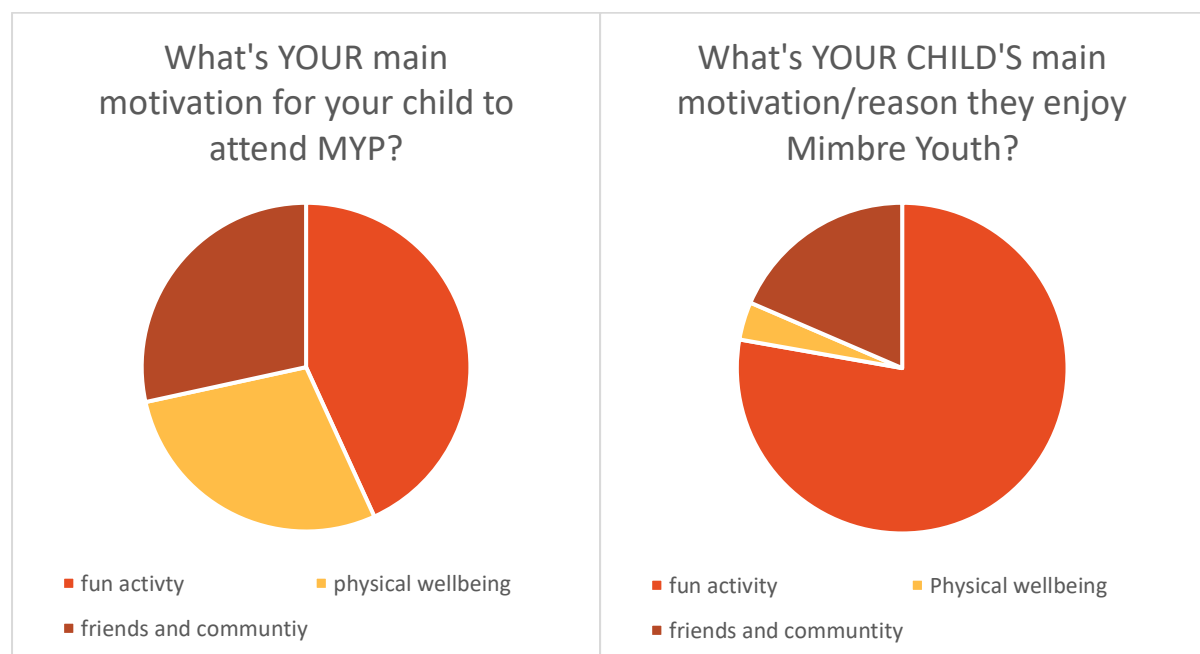
Term 1: autumn 2022



“Akinyele loves it all!”

“Thank you so much, L had so much fun! Would be great to have adult classes!”

Term 2: spring 2023



**Any comments on how you think MYP has been good for your child?  
Do you think these classes have provided something different from other classes or programmes?**

"Meeting kids outside school, getting familiar with a different context, the Mimbres team looks after him".

"The classes have kept him in a routine, looks forward to attending, learns new skills."

"Great working as a team, fun with friends"

"enjoys coming to classes, enjoys friendships, variety of activities"

"Confidence building, non-competitive fun"

"Grown in confidence by attending classes."

"Amazing activities, bond with other kids, physical wellbeing"

"Building confidence in a warm and friendly group".

"Improved her self-esteem, harnessed positive relationships outside of school, community environment, learning challenging skills."

"Mimbres is perfect."

"Fun classes, make friends."

"Access to physical wellbeing and learning of skills."

"Learnt new skills, intimate classes, more receptive than other classes."

"Good motivation"

"Affordable, group learning, meet new people, fun."

"Increased skill, confidence in acro, different than other classes"

"Kids look forward to class, building friendships, developing strength, enjoy learning, unique compared to other classes".

"Community, fun"

"Confidence improved, make new friends, learn new skills".

"Street dance"

"Improved confidence, fun"



**Do you feel there are any things we could do to support your child better in class?**

"Learning to be comfortable in front of an audience".

"More focus on favourite skills"

"You do it all great"

"No everything is great".

"No thank you for all your amazing work".

"Keep doing what you're doing".

"No, you're doing great".

"a Mimbres collective, TikTok"

"No"

"don't think so".

"More classes, twice a week"

"no"

"More skill work"

**Any other thoughts of things we could do better or differently?**

"More juggling."

n/a

"More breakdance."

"I think Mimbres is fantastic."

"More skill work"

"Would be great if we maybe had an idea of what was on schedule for each week."

"More fun"

"Longer classes"

"All good, communicate well, timely, responsive."

"Outings with family"

"you guys are great."

### Term 3: summer 2023

74% said classes helped improved their child's strength.

63% said classes helped improve their child's fitness.

68% said classes helped improve their child's flexibility.

95% said Mimbre classes improved their child's confidence.

89% said taking part in classes has improved their child's willingness to try new things.

**In your own words, any comments on why Mimbre has been good for your child, why the classes are important to you, your family or the community or what makes these classes unique from other provisions?**

"Thanks very much, I feel that this space is safe and comfortable and professional... for \*child\* to find a community, love, respect, and a big part of her construction of identity. For our family, it is a gift we love your work and passion and honesty with your feelings in the class."

"The classes have been excellent for my child's confidence, learning new skills and building trust in others. She also doesn't know anyone in the class, so it has been great at pushing zones".

"I think it's a great opportunity to have this space accessible for children of all backgrounds to get together and discover and develop a skill".

"Non-competitive element is great, taking part and having fun!"

"It has helped build a community and meant interacting with other age groups. We've been given so many opportunities through Mimbre- theatre, dance- things we otherwise wouldn't be able to afford".

"As my child is not very academic is always nice to have other things, he can feel good about".

"She really enjoys the sessions and feels supported by teachers she feels confident to try things in a safe environment".

"A nice safe family-oriented setup where my child feels included and encouraged at every step of the way. the teachers are thoughtful and patient. The children are taught at a gentle pace".

"My daughter is very happy here".

"She wouldn't speak in public before, now she's often the first to try something new or to put on a performance".

"I think the sessions have really benefited my child in gaining trust and confidence".

"Helped with teamwork, mixing with new friends not from same school circle. Respecting physical boundaries. Using energy"

“It helps kids explore the whole range of motor skills, as well as learning new physical activities and fun activities go hand in hand.”

“Good way to open her about acrobatics and circus, going to shows and being that she is learning little bits of it herself. Good to meet other children and adults as well, feel confident in other groups not just family and school.”

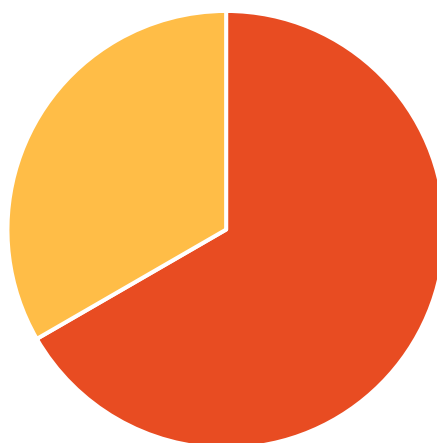
“Jacob loves being part of a team. He enjoys having somewhere to let out some energy after school. It’s really nice for him to meet new people outside of school”.

“We teach our daughter that it’s important to practise sports for many reasons, (mental and physical health, meeting new people) this class in particular (with gymnastics) helped her gain confidence. She used to be scared about ... at the park. She loves your class”.

“I really liked how Mimbres has children from all different areas of the community. We were looking for street dance classes and this is a good mix of dance and acro”.

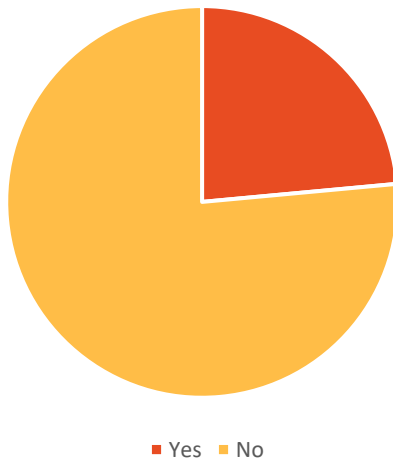
“Aside from improving her physical strength and promoting the natural flexibility she has always had, my child has really benefitted from the process of setting personal goals and observing the techniques required to achieve them. She has really learned the importance of practising techniques to achieve goals and has been trying to apply this to other areas of life where she has set targets. Mimbres has helped promote her physical health but also is teaching valuable life lessons!!”

Has the recent increased cost of living increase influenced how much you can spend on activities for your children?



■ Yes ■ No

Do you know of any other similar activity that you could access locally?



Yes but they seem inaccessible and don't come across as overly friendly

Yes but they're expensive and hard to access and fully booked. Not enough provisions like this really

Yes but too expensive

Yes but it feels too closed off and not fun/light

#### **How would it affect you and your child if Mimbres's classes didn't run?**

"It would affect my child's confidence, and opportunity to move in an inclusive setting something very important to a parent living in Hackney".

"Would cut ties with this social circle and lessen arts exposure and exercise etc".

"The education system is so narrow on subjects like English and maths. Creative activities are not happening much in schools".

"Our children need facilities like this to learn new skills at an affordable cost, to grow in confidence, fitness, make new friends, and maintain connections with the community. There is a serious lack of initiatives like this in Hackney".

"A crucial part of the community. Many of the children would not be able to do any extracurriculars without it."

"It creates an environment outside of school where they can explore and be creative".

"She is often reluctant to do sports so she wouldn't have a physical outlet."

"He wouldn't have the chance to foster friendships outside of school or learn how to use his body in new ways".

"We would definitely lose this opportunity to do acrobatics classes that are local and affordable."

"Would be really sad as it is so important for the children and the parents".



“She loves this class. It helps with her confidence and strength”.

“I was lucky to have access to dance and music lessons. They helped shape my commitment to learning in general. It was an outlet for me and contributed to creating an important foundation for the work I do now as an adult. It is so important to me that my child gets the same opportunities but, in my circumstance, providing her with these opportunities for her is expensive. Mimbres is providing a valuable opportunity for one community of kids who may otherwise be excluded from these chances to grow their confidence, promote their creativity”

**Any thoughts on things we could do better or differently?**

“Potentially collaborating with the ritual of the art”.

“Being in a space dedicated to creating”.

“More focus on acro”

“Kids performance at a proper venue”

“More parent inclusion”

“More focus on acrobatics/physical challenges might improve this gender ratio as it seems more skewed towards girls”

“More acro/circus rather than dance”

“My child preferred dance and didn’t enjoy acro so much. This made her not want to continue next term”.

“My child would prefer more emphasis on the acrobatics side of things rather than dance. I think we would also both benefit from a program for each term, e.g. this term we will have workshops focused on handstands”.

**Any other thoughts or feedback you want to share with us about the classes?**

“FANTASTIC and fun, inclusive and varied every week!”

“It was great thanks! All the team, the organisation, the way the team treat and help the children with the right approach to every one of them”.

“thank you so much for an awesome activity”

“your fantastic”

“ we love the atmosphere, openness and ethics around your classes- thank you!”

“thank you for inviting children and parents to enjoy Cirque de Soliel. It’s amazing”

Thank you



A big thank you to our funders for this year:

- Arts Council England
- Charles S French
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- Edgar E Lawley Foundation
- Wayne Walters, many other individual donors and the youth programme families.

*Images by HeardInLondon and the Mimbres team*