



MIMBRE YOUTH REPORT SEPT 2023 – JULY 2024

“[T]his simple Mimbre community and classes every Tuesday, has created opportunities for me and my family that would never have been able to experience, so thank you, keep doing what you do, we support you”

- Parent 2024

What we do

Mimbre Youth was founded in 2008 and is rooted in the communities of Mimbre's local borough of Hackney. It uses acrobatics, street dance, circus and public performances to build confidence, friendships and well-being and give participants a strong sense of achievement by learning new and impressive skills.

We actively remove barriers to participation to provide equal access to arts and extracurricular activities for all young people, regardless of background and, in particular for low-income families. We promote inclusion, diversity and representation to build a strong local community where all young people, as well as their families, can feel a sense of belonging, make friendships across postcodes and learn how to trust, lean on and lift each other up (quite literally).

We run weekly classes for three age groups, 6-8 (Mini), 8-10 (Midi) and 10-15 (Maxi), during term time as well as arranging community days, outings and working with others to provide further opportunities.

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.



Class numbers for the 2023-2024 academic year

	Participants	Total attendances	Number from the global majority	Number from low-income backgrounds
Autumn term 2023	48	396	25	27
Spring term 2024	51	386	27	24
Summer Term 2024	56	359	25	24

Additional activities

- In January 2024, 52 young people, parents and carers attended the dress rehearsal of Cirque du Soleil's show, *ALEGRIA*, at the Royal Albert Hall: "a once in a lifetime opportunity for our family to go and see a show like that."
- In early April 2024, four of Mimbre's young people attended the National Youth Circus Event at the National Centre for Circus Arts. Watch a short video here: <https://www.instagram.com/p/C6Gp96gMQy4/>
- In July 2024, 41 young people, parents and carers attended a performance by Revel Puck Circus in the Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park.
- And we finished the summer term with a Circus Experience Day at the National Centre for Circus Arts. You can watch a short video here: <https://www.instagram.com/reel/C-Xj0EiRtVE/> and thanks so much for having us, NCCA!

We had this amazing feedback from a parent about these kinds of trips:

[Mimbre Youth] has given us the opportunity to have experiences that I've probably never have thought of or have feel accepted to enter those environments. We been to [Cirque du Soleil] twice and every time we been there, it's been an amazing experience. And it was the first time I been to that venue [Royal Albert Hall]. We got to experience a different culture, got to be around different people who we probably wouldn't have ever be in the same space as us. My children got to see how other people behave, just got to tap into an experience that we probably otherwise wouldn't have had.

And because of that I've now been able to open up that to people in my own community as well, so I took my mom to that venue as well to see a show and it was an incredible experience and also I recorded the experience and put in on my social media (I've got quite a big following on Facebook), and people you know that will never ever know that these things exist can see them and also tapping into that experience as well.

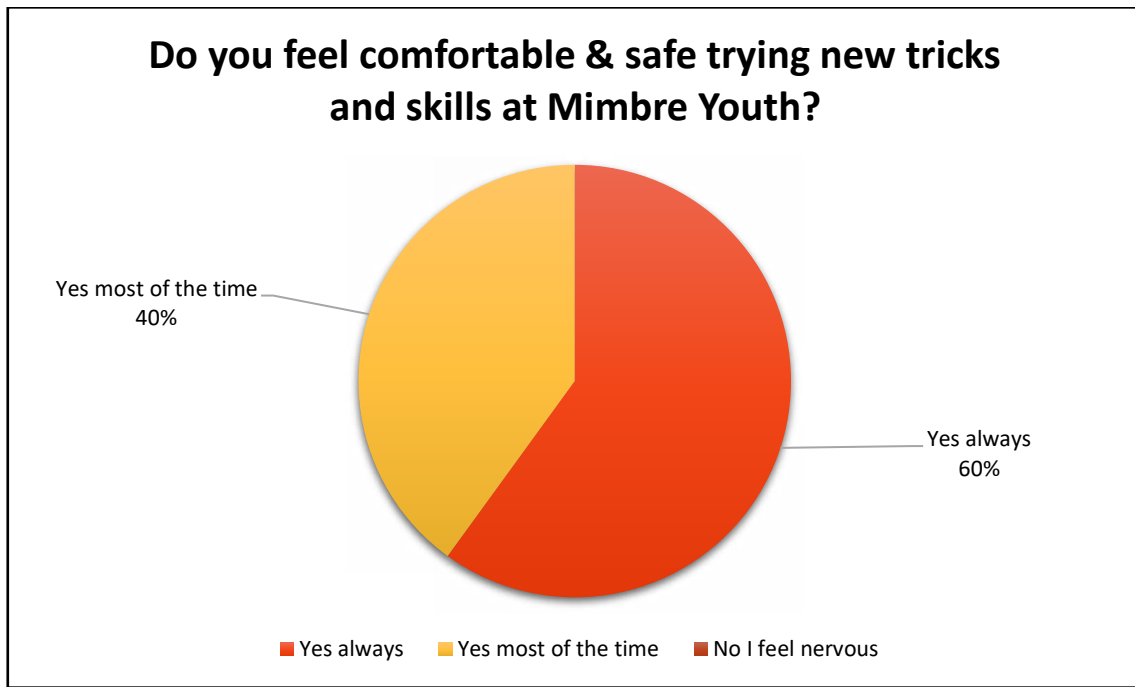
So I just wanted to say that just you know by this simple Mimbre community and classes every Tuesday, has created opportunities for me and my family that would never have been able to experience, so thank you, keep doing what you do, we support you and I'm here, we love it.



Feedback highlights

(full feedback below)

From the young people themselves



BEST CLUB EVER <3

I have done much more of the purple track and gotten better

Partner work. [There] are more and more people that I know in the group

How is Mimbre Youth Different from other things you do after school?

It's different and diverse Flips

Its more relaxed but better

Its very fun and at the same time good for health

It's more happier and more fun.

We do more acro and fun stuff

It's more fun I can do whatever I want on tumble

And from their families

[My child] comes back every Tuesday very excited. She is quite shy in public settings, but I feel this class is helping her grow in confidence Thank you!

Good vibes, socialising, pushes her talent, affordable / feels like family, friendly free. Had to stop my daughters dance because of financial stress. Mimbre is much better!

It's not school based. So the children meet others in the area the might not otherwise get to know

I want him to have a physical activity and this class has a lovely community and it's so good for his focus

So many. We've been offered access to performances we wouldn't be able to afford to attend. [My child] is now in National Youth Circus she would have NEVER achieved without Mimbre



Funding

Mimbre Youth has been funded this year by:

- Arts Council England
- Wilmcote Charitrust
- Chapman Charitable Trust
- Rank Foundation
- Ford Britain Trust
- Tesco Groundwork
- Wayne Walters, many other individual donors and the youth programme families.

Thank you very much!

We especially want to thank the Rank Foundation and the Ford Britain Trust for contributing to our equipment purchases! Here is our lovely new trolley:



The future

I get the sense you work tirelessly to provide top-notch highly skilled expertise... on a shoe string – Parent 2024

It is no secret that funding in the UK is incredibly difficult at the moment. Mimbre have had our fair share of funding knockbacks recently and we can currently only promise that the programme can continue on a term-by-term basis.

Thanks again to those funders and donors – Arts Council England, Wilmcote Charitrust, Chapman Charitable Trust, Rank Foundation, Ford Britain Trust, Tesco Groundwork, Wayne Walters and others – who have supported the programme over the past year.

We are also incredibly grateful to Hackney Council for giving us enough to definitely run a term in autumn 2024.

If you are able to support Mimbre Youth in any way, please see our website here for how you can help: <https://mimbre.co.uk/support/>

Please feel free to get in touch if you'd like to see our budget, previous funders or for any other information.

Thank you!



Mimbre
acrobatic
theatre



Acrobatics, Dance and Circus Classes

Mimbre Youth



Milton Gardens
Community Hall
Shakespeare Walk (South end)
London N16 8TL



FREE OR
PAY WHAT
YOU CAN
£55
£130

for Milton Gardens Estate residents
and families in need
per term. Concession price for
low-income families as needed
per term. Full price (10 classes)



Tuesdays from 17th September - 3rd December
(no classes 29th October) 2024
6-8 years old: 4pm - 4:50pm
8-10+ years old: 5pm - 6pm
10-16 years old: 6pm - 7:15pm

**FREE TRIAL
CLASSES**

TO SECURE A SPACE EMAIL:
education@mimbre.co.uk
For full information go to:
bit.ly/MimbreYouthClasses



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ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND

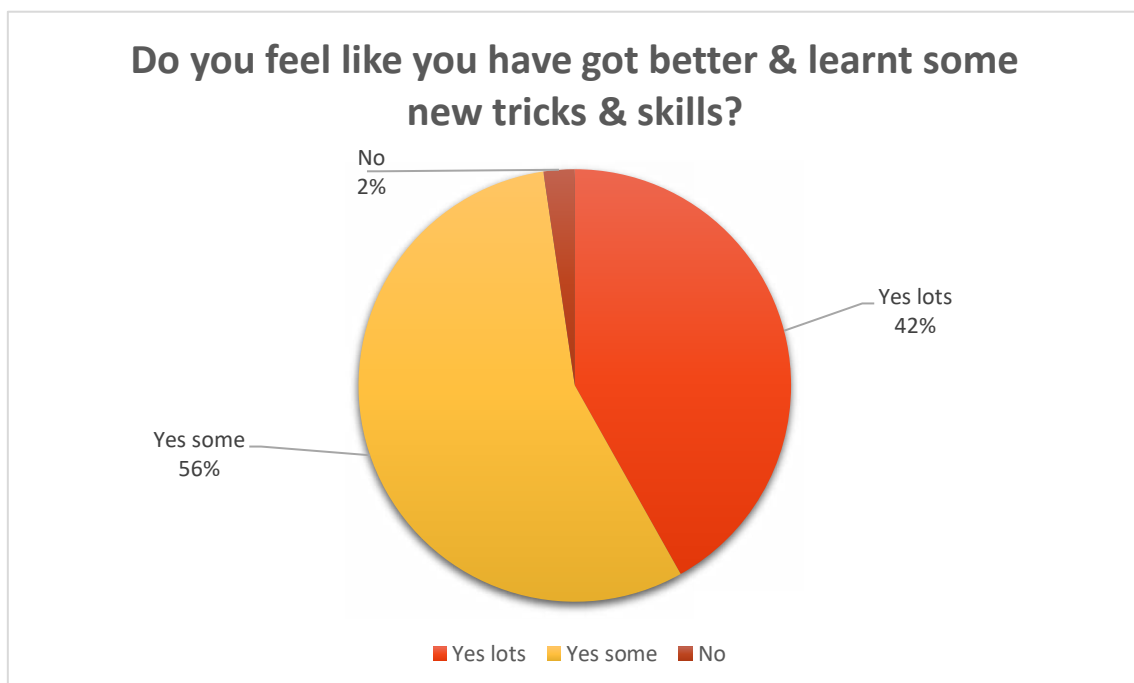
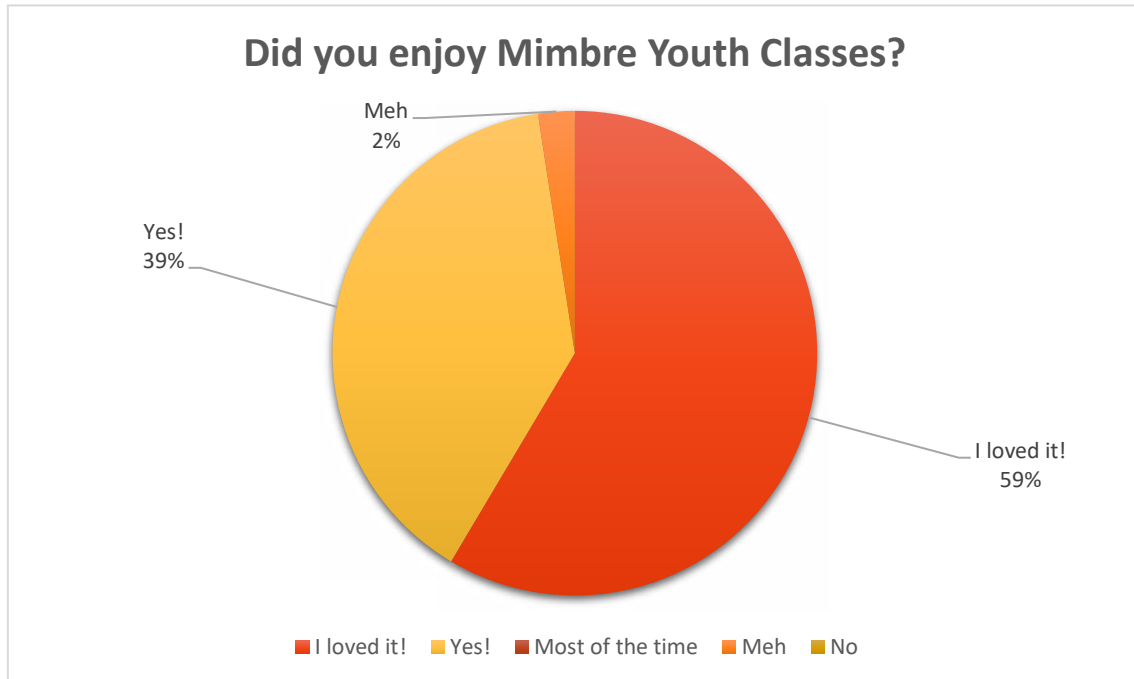


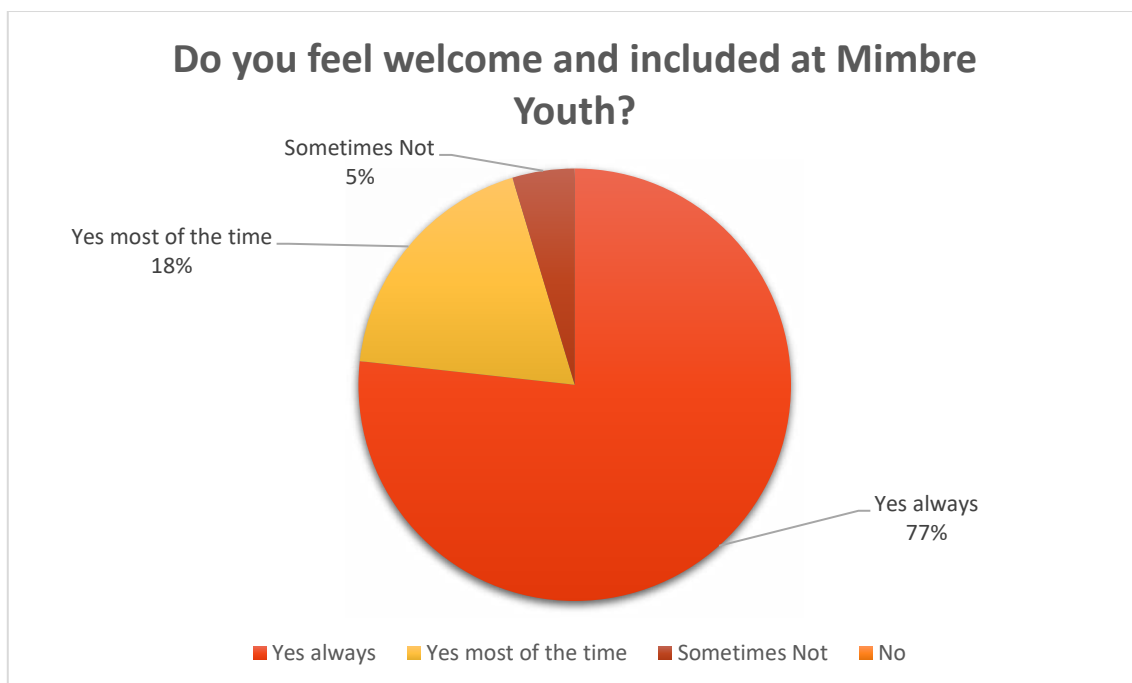
image credits: @HeardInLondon

Full feedback from participants and parents

What our participants think

Term 1: autumn 2023





Do you think there is anything we can do differently to make sure everyone feels welcome and included?

Mini:

- More cartwheel
- To have body partners so that means they the other person is happy
- If you have disabilities be helped More dance! Please :)
- Tell them how to do the trick More dance and acrobatics No

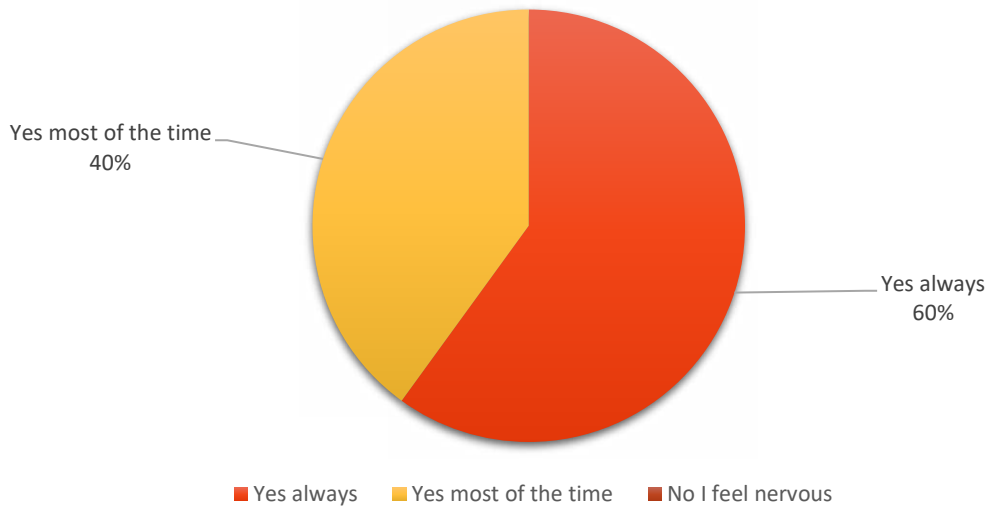
Midi:

- No More assistance I think its perfect the way it is :)
- Don't know No, i think its perfect already
- Nothing needs improved!!! :) <3
- We do a bit of PE No, every thing is fine
- No No I think this class is best the way it is
- No I like the same Definitely not !!!!
- For more teachers to come and learn new things

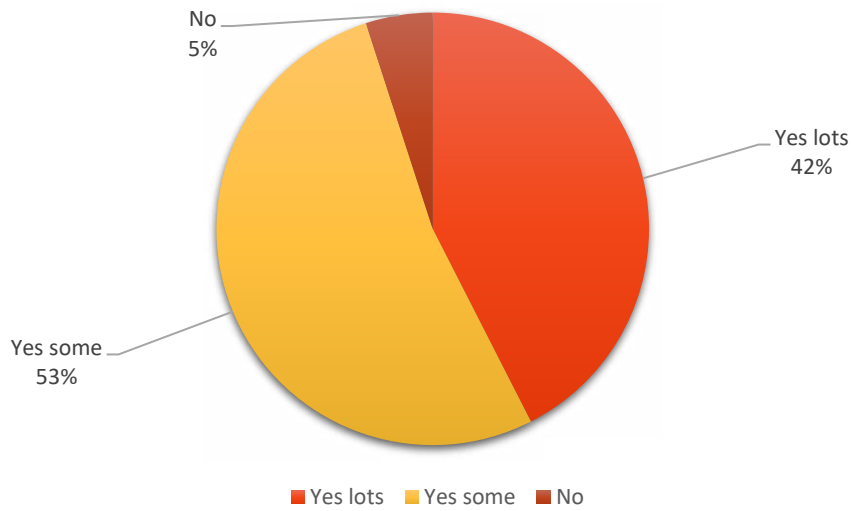
Maxi:

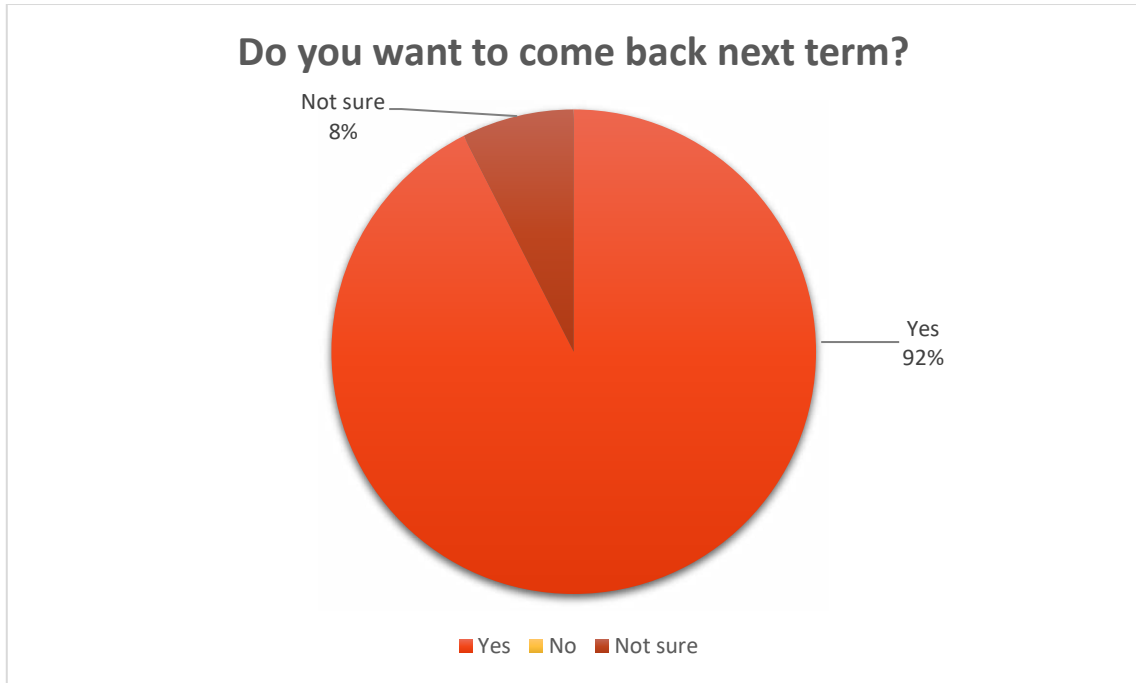
- No, I think everything is perfect Maybe help more on new skills
- Maybe talking to us as a group Nope. I love everything
- No No No No No No I don't No

Do you feel comfortable & safe trying new tricks and skills at Mimbre Youth?



Do you feel like you have made new friends at Mimbre Youth?





Do you think Mimbre Youth is different from other activities you do? If yes, in what way? Or any other comments?

Mini:

Playing stuck in the mud

Sometimes I'm tired



Keep going, we love it

No

No

Midi:

Yes, new tricks

Partner work. They are more and more people that I know in the group

Likes the circus skills at beginning and dance and home time

BEST CLUB EVER <3

Because I don't do acrobatic



Maxis:

No

Yes

Yeah



It's quite similar

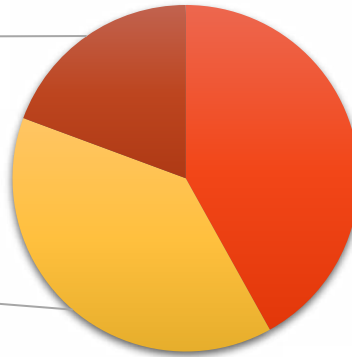
And we asked the Midis and Maxis only –

We will do a bit of everything, but for next term do you prefer we focus more on:

Creative task: Creating your own choreographies and sequences with your friends
19%

Group & partner work: Doing acrobatics in pairs and group pyramids
39%

Individual skills: Like acrobatics, solotricks & new dance moves
42%



- Individual skills: Like acrobatics, solotricks & new dance moves
- Group & partner work: Doing acrobatics in pairs and group pyramids
- Creative task: Creating your own choreographies and sequences with your friends



Term 3: summer 2024

Maxis

Q1. What have you enjoyed most this term?

Acrobatics Acro Dance
I have done much more of the purple track and gotten better
Acro and dance The pyramids Learning new things
Tumble floor Stuff man Acro and dance

Q2. What did you find hard?

Nothing Nothing I don't know
I'm not sure Nothing
Some if Tim's moves (standing shuffle)
Dancing Not sure Nothing
Nothing

Q3. How is Mimbre Youth Different from other things you do after school?

It's different and diverse Flips
Its more relaxed but better
Its very fun and at the same time good for health
It's more happier and more fun.
We do more acro and fun stuff
It's more fun I can do whatever I want on tumble
Nothing much Because

Q4. Is there anything you would like to be different in the Mimbre classes you make you enjoy it more?

No, I already enjoy No I don't know
I like it how it is Maybe more time to have more fun
The people that do pyramids first for them to have more time on the tumble track even though we are not that advanced
Do more free things More time on tumble floor No No

Q5. Is there anything you want to do more of next year?

Acro	No	Dance	Exploring more different activities
No	Tumble track	Tumble floor	Tumble floor
Juggling	No		

Q6. For next term it would be great if you could think of a specific move that you would like to work towards, for example a tumbling move or could be a specific song to create a choreography to and then we can plan a structure for the term with that in mind.

Twist Flip	Noooo	I don't know
Back flip landing		Hand stand into bridge
Standing back hand spring linked to a back flip. Front hand spring linked to a front summersault		
Double back flips	Ok	

Minis and Midis

Q1. What have you enjoyed most this term?

Learning new things	Dance	Everything
Everything	Skipping	Stuff
Doing roly pollys	Doing cartwheels	
Learning new things/skills etc		Playing with Nia and Tim
Playing cats with Nia		When we did bridges
Dancing and acrobatics	Dancing	
Cartwheel	Stuck in the mud	Pyramids
Bum spin	Break dancing	Dance with Tim
Learning the dance steps		

Q2. What did you find hard?

Some dancing	Backflips	Nothing
Cartwheels	Skipping	Everything
Doing a bridge standing up		Doing cartwheels
Walk overs, hand stand walk etc		The heat
Back walkover	Doing a handstand	
Bridge	Mermaid move	Handstands
Nothing	None	Cartwheel

Nothing Doing cartwheels handstands, cartwheels

Q3. How is Mimbre Youth Different from other things you do after school?

Ballet IDK I have no idea

There is gymnastics do not know? I don't know?

In my school we do a cartwheel in PE sometimes. they have more

I don't do athletics at school or after...

Some of them don't include part of your body like sewing etc

We don't do swimming It's not at school

I used to do gymnastics in my school and we only did things like moves not bridges or hand-stands

Fun amazing, make new friends

We don't do learning More fun and more playful

At school I do learning at gymnastics I do playing

Theres more streetdancing

Because in mimbre we do more acrobatics than in the school

More active You do more tricks in this one

I learn cooler things in here

Q4. Is there anything you would like to be different in the Mimbre classes you make you enjoy it more?

No! Food No No No

No Fun activities Make there be more games

Different and more activities, a bit more challenging stuff etc

Go outside when hot Play cats more

Make it longer and also be able to learn about breakdancing

Yes, more classes More play time and skipping

No More stuck in the mud No

More dance Move like ... Having more juggling

Backflips!

Q5. Is there anything you want to do more of next year?

Learn how to do a cartwheel Dance
Maybe more acrobatics Air track
Yes acro No
Can we learn how to do a backflip? And can we do the splits I feel like it haha
Cartwheels Walk overs, handstand, slips (back and front) etc
More Time cause he is a cool guy Go outside when hot
More rolls and handstands More classes trips
A show No Stuck in the muddddd!
More games Bum spin Learning real circus moves
More cartwheels Backflips!



What their families think

Term 2: spring 2024

Things that are good; things your child enjoys about Mimbre Youth?

Loves the relaxed atmosphere.

Achievable exercises

She doesn't feel push[ed] but is always really happy about what she's learnt to do

She's really confident about movement and dance now, I much thank to the Mimbre classes.

My child loves everything about this class. She has enjoyed learning to do handstands and has improved very much on her balance and building the confidence to be more involved

[My child] comes back every Tuesday very excited. She is quite shy in public settings, but I feel this class is helping her grow in confidence Thank you!

Really enjoys the skills & tricks

Things that could make it better; anything your young person enjoys less or something they want more of?

She loves it as it is

Maybe a list of things can practise at home?

As a parent I really loved the video you shared of the routine last year?

We loved leaning it and practicing together 😊

Nothing to improve

Nothing



Term 3: summer 2024

Q1. What's the main reason you signed your kid up to Mimbre youth?

[My child] loves gym and movement

Good vibes, socialising, pushes her talent, affordable / feels like family, friendly free. Had to stop my daughters dance because of financial stress. Mimbre is much better!

To exercise and to get confidence

She really enjoys moving her body and having new friends

Confidence in body + dance, meet other children

To build her confidence and encourage her to join in.

Enriching after school activities

Fun, exercise, (childcare!), confidence-building

I want him to have a physical activity and this class has a lovely community and it's so good for his focus

My kids love dancing and affordable

Because it's a active club

Because she loves doing gymnastics and a friends recommended Mimbre highly

Something fun in a group where she can learn some physical skills

For community bonds, to keep fit, learn new skills

Developing creative movement and strength as well as experiencing joy within a loved group of children! Motivating and stimulating environment.

Q2. Do you think there is anything about Mimbre Youth that is different from other after-school programme/provisions? If so, What?

Nice, caring & nurturing atmosphere

Absolutely. Feels like a real community club and inclusive of all people. The extra opportunities that are available are second to none.

I've never seen acrobatics/circus activities anywhere apart from here

Hard work teaching and love

Feels genuinely expansive, inclusive, warm, soul-filled, child-centred, safe, learning new skills + *confidence*

Very child led

It seems more engaging and fun

Very relaxed, inspiring people

you are amazing at building up a community around the class. It's truly inclusive

Very understanding if child has issues, not obscene prices

Mimbre has a nice community feel to it

It seems my child really enjoys the structure where it is very playful and energetic

It's not school based. So the children meet others in the area they might not otherwise get to know

I think it's different in a great way, teachers are talented, supportive, environment is great for learning + fun too

Yes, The spontaneity, creativity and unique character of the group and how sessions are organised

Q3. If we long-term were to reshape the way we run the programme, do you have any suggestions to how you think we could improve the structure of it? (No promises we can realise it!)

Afraid [I] don't know enough.

Further support for dance/acro scholarships? Maybe a proper evening show/performance.

Next year, can't attend due to other activities schedule, would be nice to have availability more days over the week

No! Perfect the way it is Sorry, no

Very inspiring for the kids to see your show - maybe more of that?

A parent rota for volunteering or more volunteers so some kids get more 1:1 attention

Would be great if a little longer or split into 2 days a week

No, it's good

Maybe more structure? In terms of skills acquisition

I love how the skill sets are organised and the element of the sessions. Maybe organising more performing and workshops if that's possible

Q4. Do you have any feedback on short-term, more immediate changes we could do to improve it (preferably cheap or free...)?

Newsletter / celebration of skills achieved? Pupil of the term? Support groups to and fro from the venue?

I don't know... I get the sense you work tirelessly to provide top-notch highly skilled expertise... on a shoe string

Works the way it is

N/A

Free option for low income family

I like it as is and support any initiative you come up with

I cannot think of anything different in the meantime, but if I do I would be happy to make suggestions

Q5. What do you think have been the main benefits for your kid taking part in Mimbre Youth classes?

Enjoyment of movement activities, confidence building. Time with new friends

So many. We've been offered access to performances we wouldn't be able to afford to attend. [My child] is now in National Youth Circus she would have NEVER achieved without Mimbre

...Gained confidence ...

Body awakesness, dignity, body alertness of dangerous situations, friendship

Body confidence, freedom to try + experiment, a love of movement

More confident and willing to try physical challenges

Physical + social dexterity

Fun, confidence-building, high-energy

Fine and gross motor, emotional regulation and commitment

Meeting new people. Making new friends. Learning new things enjoyment

Yes, they have learnt many skills

She has become more confident in experimenting with different things she can do with her body

She really enjoys it, she is really confident in dancing and balancing

She's made a great friend, she enjoys and looks forward to her time here + exposure to Cirque du Soleil

Experiencing a joyful, spontaneous and creative environment of movement, it is a rewarding experience as my daughter feels she is gaining new skills

Q6. We try to arrange and organise regular activities or forward opportunities outside of the classes that we think are fun and accessible. Is this something you appreciate and make use of, or does it just feel like another stressful overload in your inbox...? You can mark it on a scale of 1 (please stop) to 10 (love it) or write a comment.

Appreciate 10. Thank you for a brilliant term for [my child]

10 love these emails!

I like the opportunities that they have here to see spectacles. It's a pity she can't attend the activities next Saturday (circus experience day)

10! Thanks a lot!

Yes, always welcome 10

It's great, just a bit more notice if possible.

10 - love it and think the amount of emails is fine :)

10 P.S. you could run a session for adults

10 - love it, yes please, my kids love to do thing any class trips, shows, etc. would be greatly appreciated :)

10 Yes 10

10+ we love Cirque du Soleil and other external activities you inform us of. More please

I personally really love the extra experiences Membre offers - the more the better. It is enjoyable for both the children and adults and they allow children to see movement and artisans from various perspectives and through different environments - it is widening their experience and ideas. Thank you for everything that you do it is much valued :)



Images by Arthur Le Fol, HeardInLondon and the Membre team