



MIMBRE YOUTH REPORT SEPT 2024 – JULY 2025

"Honestly, Mimbres does Hackney so proud - the only truly inclusive classes I've ever come across."

- Parent 2024



Mimbre Youth Fun Day, March 2025

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.

Funding

During the 2024 to 2025 academic year, Mimbre Youth was supported by:



Supported using public funding by

**ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND**

Wayne Walters, many other individual donors and the youth programme families

Thank you very much!

Class numbers for the 2024-2025 academic year

	Participants	Total attendances	Number from the global majority	Number from low-income backgrounds
Autumn term 2024	49	362	23	31
Spring term 2024	40	311	18	21
Summer Term 2024	37	315	18	15

Additional activities



- During the year, Mimbres became part of the Jack Petchey Foundation's Achievement Awards. This meant that our first winner, Ruslana, was able to organise a trip to a local trampoline park for the Maxi group. We look forward to more special trips and equipment chosen by our Award winners.
- Some young people attended workshops at the Roundhouse and the National Centre for Circus Arts

- Once again the young people and their families were thrilled to attend the dress rehearsal of Cirque du Soleil at the Royal Albert Hall: *“Yet again we had an amazing time, such a valuable experience for all of the kids. Also for me to be able to share that experience and memory with K. We’d never be able to afford tickets to go together so I’m so appreciative to you, Lina, Mimbire and the gang!”*
- In March we held a Fun Day, with performances from the young people, mini-workshops and tea and cakes. This was attended by 70 people.



- In April four of the Maxi group attended the National Youth Circus Event at the National Centre for Circus Arts.
- At our final class of the summer term, we were joined by some of the *Showdown* cast from fellow circus company Upswing. The kids were super impressed and inspired with the acrobats; got to try banquine and some lifts; and had a great, fun end-of-term class!
- Following the Arsenal Foundation’s funding of the classes, Kiki was interviewed for the Arsenal men’s team match-day programme.

FOUNDAATION VOICE

The Arsenal Foundation has helped to fund Mimbre Youth, a programme run by the female-led Mimbre acrobatic theatre company that offers sessions to local youngsters on Milton Garden Estate. Local youngster Kiki tells us why she loves them

ARSENAL ACTS

ARSENAL ACTS

41 My name is Kiki, I'm 12 years old and I have two younger brothers. We are a very sporty family, and I have been dancing and doing gymnastics since I was two. My mum even said when I was five months old and she was changing my nappy that I starting dancing. wiggling on the changing mat to her music. Now, I train with Mimbre doing dance and acrobatics, and I'm also part of the London Youth Circus at the National Centre for Circus Arts.

My brothers like to fight and play football. My seven-year-old brother plays football all the time, and he even plays at Hale End sometimes.

I was six or seven when I joined Mimbre Youth. My friend was going and it was the perfect fit for me – much more fun than the gymnastics classes I'd been to before. Everyone was so friendly and now we are like family. Some of the older kids feel like my older brothers and sisters. When I started secondary school it was nice to see their faces in the corridors.

I go once a week and we do dance, acrobatics, gymnastics, juggling and circus tricks. We also go to watch lots of performances – things like Cirque du Soleil – and the adult Mimbre company come in to perform their latest shows for us too.

I like doing dance and acrobatics the most. Sometimes we film the routines that I like on the estate we train on. I like doing that because then I can show my family how good I am and they give me extra pocket money. I usually buy sweetst!

The Mimbre Youth staff are so kind and talented. They do their own performances, which is inspiring, and sometimes they help me with any other little problems too. One of the coaches, Alvaro, is also a coach at London Youth Circus, and some of the other kids there take part in Mimbre too.

Mimbre is special because everyone is so helpful and creative. It's not like any other club I've been to. They can be strict when they need to be, but mainly we just have fun and they really help you progress. They celebrate our different talents and personalities.

I was given a scholarship for London Youth Circus by the National Centre for Circus Arts so I get to perform there too. Mimbre is also part of the Jack Pacey Achievement Award scheme. I love performing – I'm quite fidgety in class so this means I can be free and be myself. I've made loads of friends and gained loads of confidence around others and on stage, and I've learned loads of fascinating new skills. I would never have tried circus skills if it wasn't for Mimbre. Maybe that's what I'll do when I'm older.



For more information visit mimbre.co.uk

A Kiki does dance and acrobatics as Mimbre Youth



I support Arsenal like my uncle, and it's my brother's dream to play at the Arsenal Academy and be a Premier League footballer. We live round the corner from Arsenal so it's our local team. I think it's so important that clubs support their local communities. Mimbre is local to

Arsenal and it's good that the club shows it supports the youth – there are all sorts of different families and kids here, and some would never be able to do all these amazing things if it wasn't for Mimbre. Kids love football so it's nice to think football loves kids! ■

B Kallum is performing (as well as learning from others). "I can be free and be myself," Kiki says



Feedback highlights

(full feedback below)

PARENTS/CARER FEEDBACK SUMMER 2025 - MIMBRE YOUTH

This feedback is really useful for us when planning, shaping and fundraising for our programme, please share your thoughts honestly!

1. Do you think the classes have helped to improve your child's... (circle as many as apply):

Creativity Strength & Fitness Well-being

2. Do you think the classes have helped to improve your child's confidence?

Yes Some Unsure No

3. Do you think taking part in Mimbire youth classes has improved your child's ability and willingness to work as part of a team?

Yes Some Unsure No

4. Do you feel like Mimbire Youth contributes to a sense of community for you and your child?

Yes it does! Yes some Unsure No

5. Any thoughts on why these classes have 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? (continue on the back if needed)

My child feels very confident trying difficult things as Mimbire has taught that process makes perfect. The only affordable and genuinely beneficial class, almost impossible to find anything as inclusive and affordable

6. Any thoughts on things we could do better or differently? (continue on the back if needed)

Mimbire Youth Evaluation SUMMER Term 2025 (Mini and Midi)

Your name:

Did you enjoy Mimbire Youth classes this term? (Circle your answers)

Yes I loved it Yes! Meh No

Have you been enjoying being more creative this term, i.e. working in pairs and groups to create your own pyramids, ways in and out, and new choreographies?

Yes I loved it Yes! Yes, but I prefer more time on new skills No

Do you feel like the classes have made you more confident (for example to perform to others or to try new physical skills)?

Yes A bit No Not sure

Do you want to come back to Mimbire Youth in the autumn?

YES NO NOT SURE

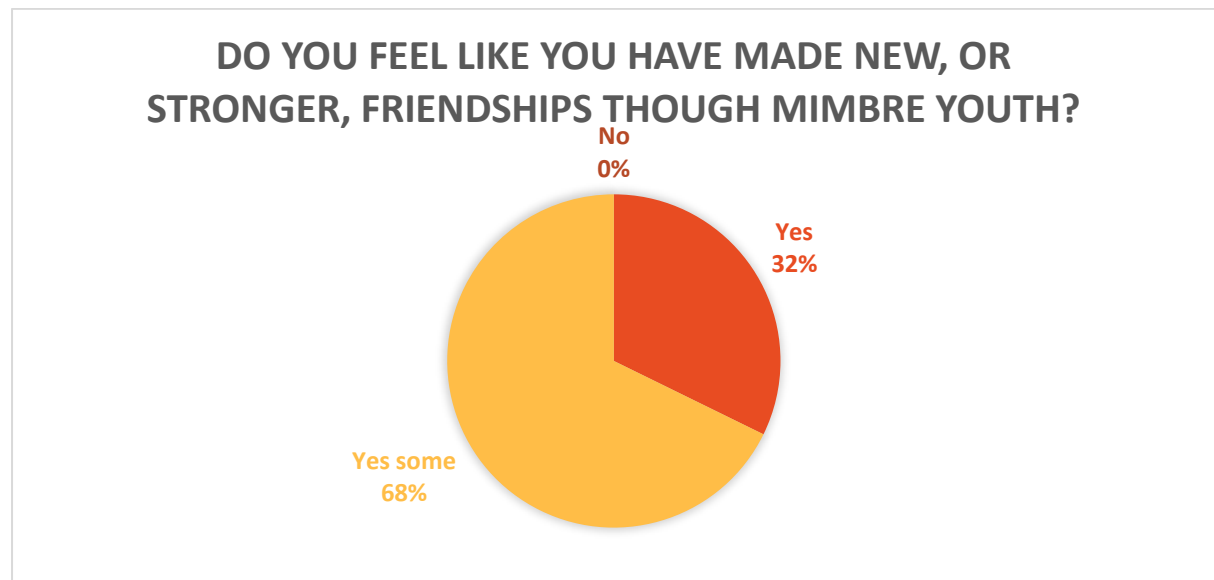
Is there anything you would like to do more of next term? *handstands*

Let us know any other thoughts you have about the Mimbire classes? *It is the best place ever.*

The objectives of Mimbire Youth include the young people making new friendships and building community, increasing their confidence through learning new skills and expressing themselves creatively.

Friendships

Spring term 2025 - participants:



Community

Autumn term 2024 – family:

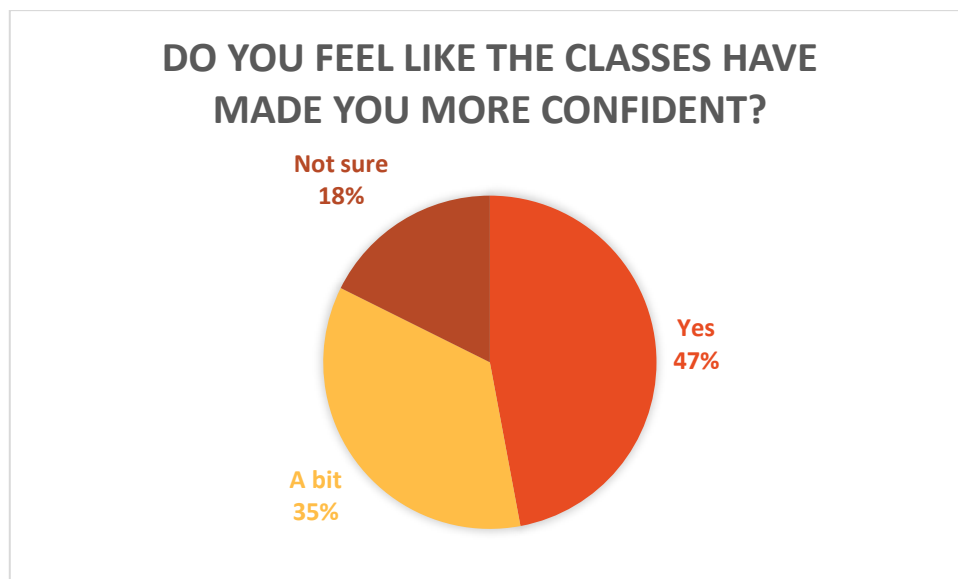
Yet again, I cannot tell you how integral Mimbre is not only to my child, but to the local community too. Not only are the classes creative, fun and engaging, but Lina and the Mimbre crew really help the children to support and grow with one another. My daughter adores her Mimbre community.

Summer term 2025 – family:

[The classes] make my child, and me!, feel part of a community that spans a few local schools. She has made new friends, appreciates keeping healthy and strong with her friends in a non-competitive environment

Confidence

Summer term 2025 – participants:



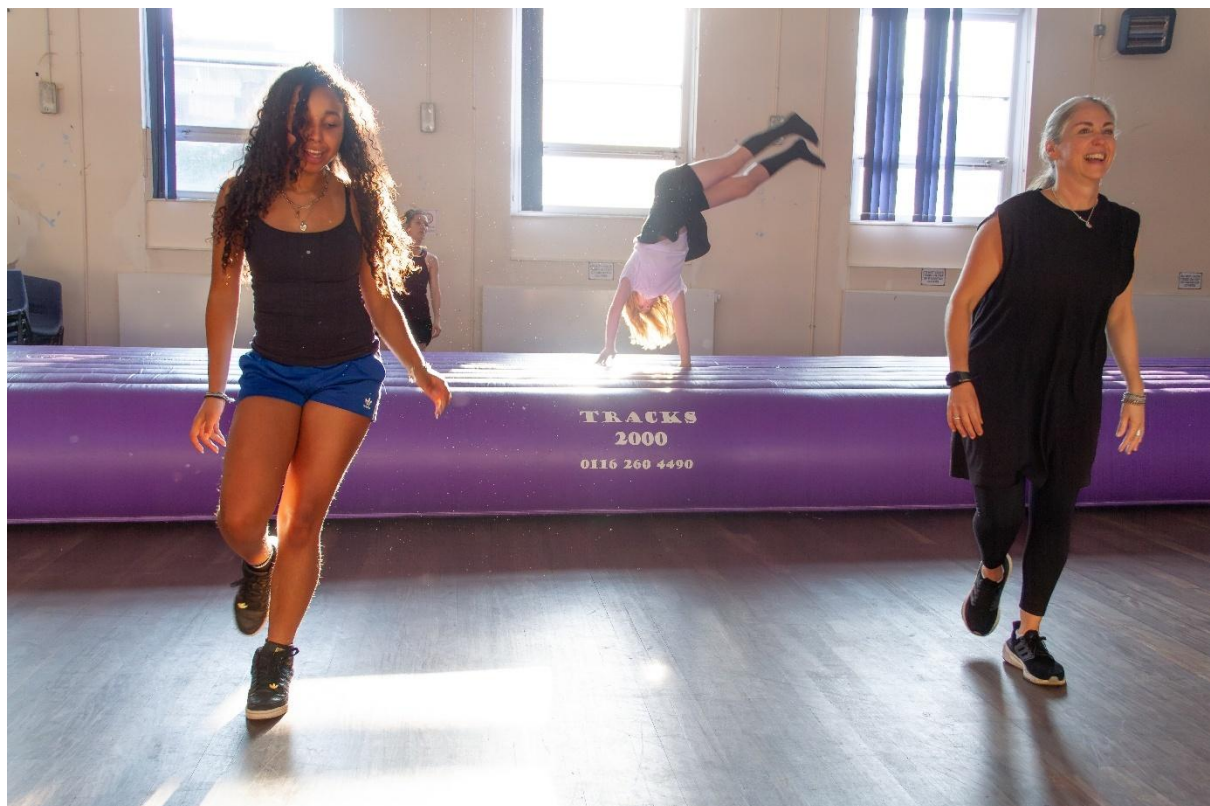
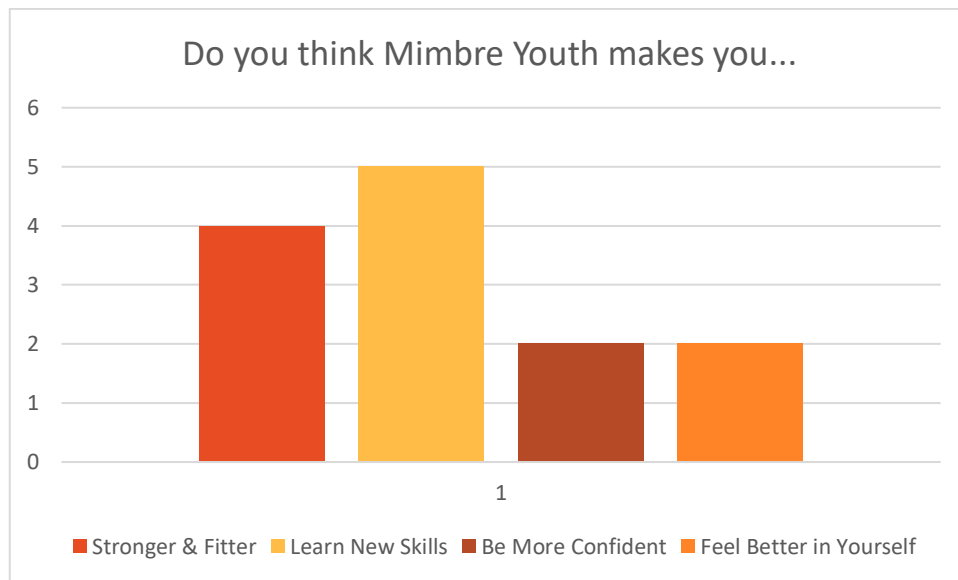
Summer 2025 – family:

My child feels very confident trying difficult things as Mimbre has taught that practice makes perfect. The ONLY affordable and genuinely beneficial class, almost impossible to find anything as inclusive and affordable.

In autumn 2024, 90% of families said that the classes had improved their child's confidence.

New skills

Summer 2025 - participants:

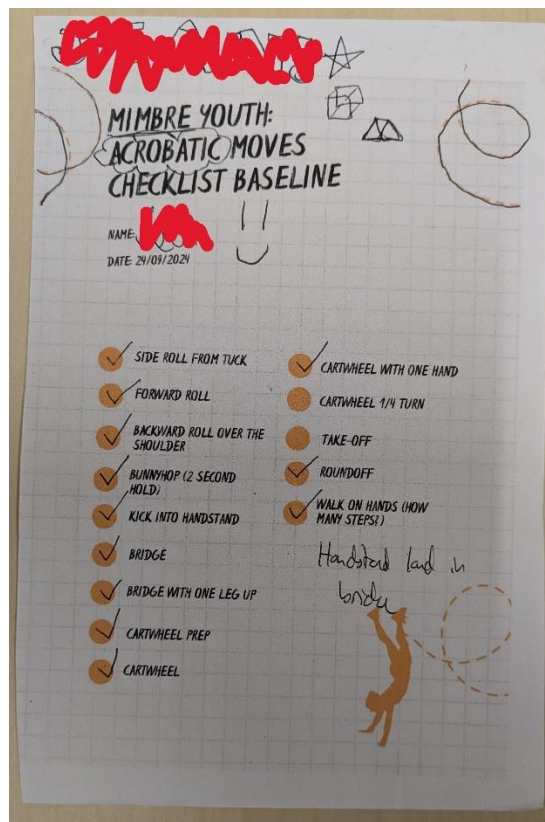
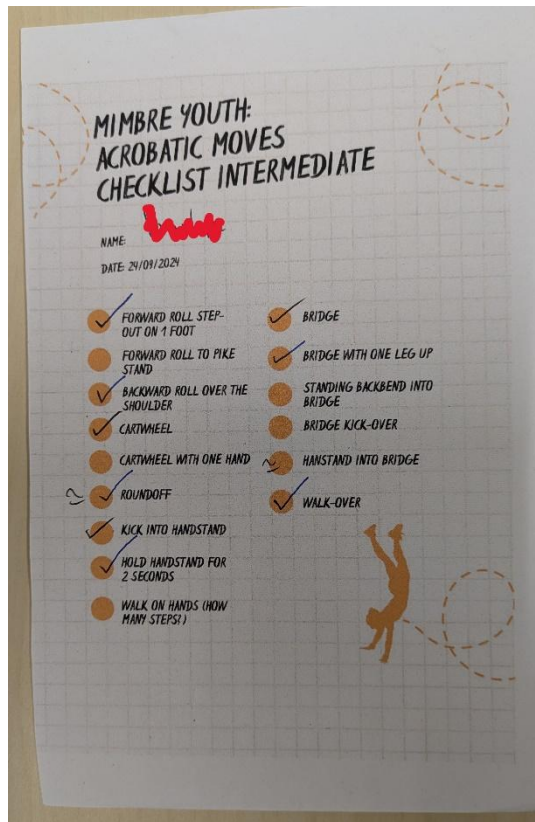


Spring 2025 - participants:

What's your favourite thing you have been learning or practising this term?

- Kubstix
- Pyramid
- Backwards roly poly, candle stick, bridge, dancing
- Hand-stands and cartwheels and pyramids and roly pollys and candle stick and dance.
- Piramidse (Pyramids)
- Pyramids and shoulder stands
- Shoulder stands
- Carthweels and handstands
- Kartwheels (Cartwheels)
- Pirimid's (Pyramids)
- I loved the big sick sculpture that we did today and dancing
- Rolls!!!
- The dancing
- I LIKE THE HEADSTANDS!
- Headstands, cartwheel, other stuff can't be bothered to write
- Back walk overs and hand-stand forwards rolls
- Pyramids, shapes and backflips
- My walkovers
- Rolls and Pyramid and Handstand
- Roundoffs
- The air track, my roundoff straight back tuck front
- The tumble track and games
- Flips
- I've been practising front handspring a lot but I don't see any improvement
- Dance
- Making more friends and learning cool tricks and pyramids
- New games and pyramids and roundoffs and handstand into bridge
- Dive roll to round off
- Everything!
- Everything I've learned it not just in this term but the whole time I've been here
- Candlesticks and backward roll and stuck in the mud

Autumn 2024 progress cards:



Creativity

Pyramids the young people have created themselves (autumn 2024):



Autumn 2024 – family:

I've always loved the combination between creativity, improvisation and movement. A is very expressive and artistic and I truly love the way creativity, fun and movement contributes and opens up this side of her, while gathering strength and confidence.



The future

It is no secret that the funding landscape in the UK has got more difficult over the past few years. Mimbre Youth is secure until the end of the autumn term due to our funding from the National Lottery Community Fund, but we are now urgently seeking funding for our spring 2026 term.

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!

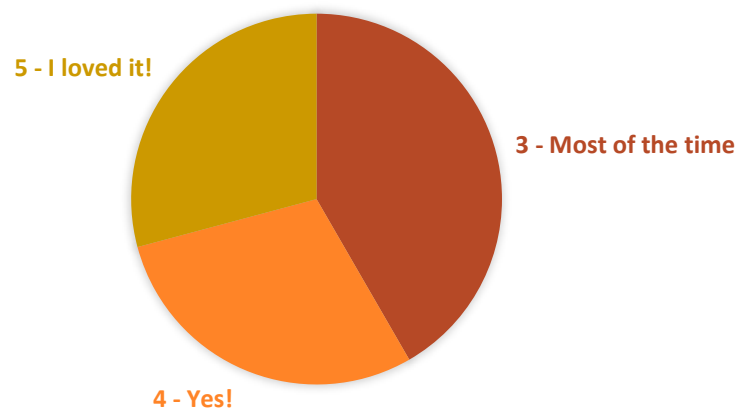
Full feedback from participants and parents



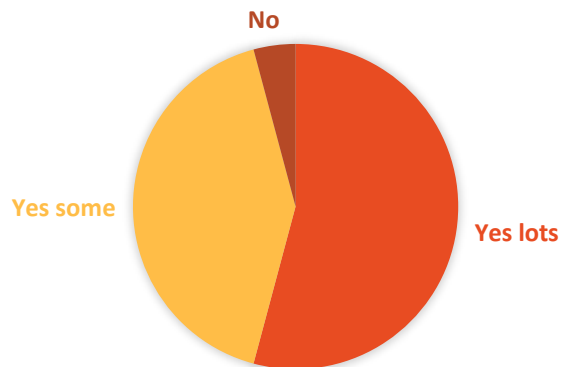
What our participants think

Term 1: autumn 2024

DID YOU ENJOY MIMBRE YOUTH CLASSES THIS TERM?



DO YOU FEEL LIKE YOU HAVE GOTTEN BETTER AND LEARNED SOME NEW TRICKS AND SKILLS?



What's the favourite thing you have been learning or practising this term?

Cartwheels and Front Roll

Criss cross

Back walkovers

Pyramids

new tricks: walk-overs, handstand walking
(a bit) etc

Handstands, cartwheels

Doing bridges and cartwheels

The pyramid

Nothing

Dance

Lots of handstands and tricks

Pyramids

Roundoffs

Handstands and cartwheels

Pyramids

The handstand

Pyramids

Pyramid

One-handed cartwheels

Cartwheel

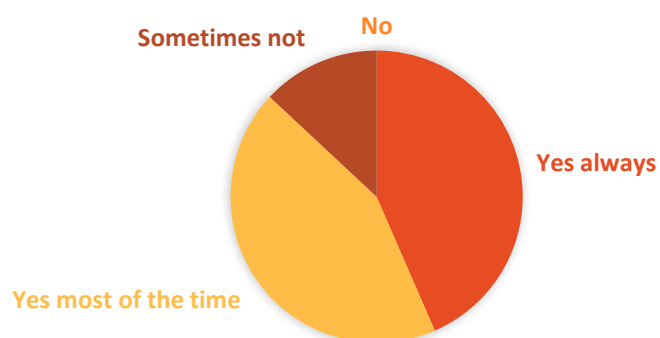
Handstands

Pyramids

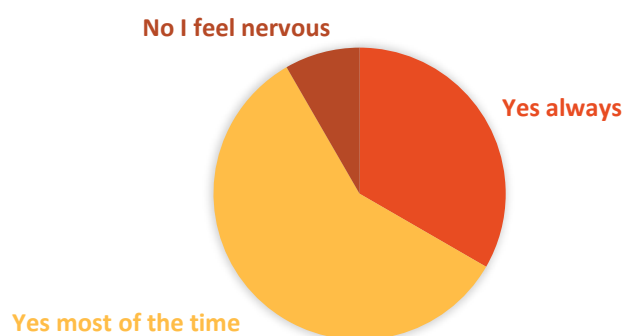
Walkover

Human pyramids

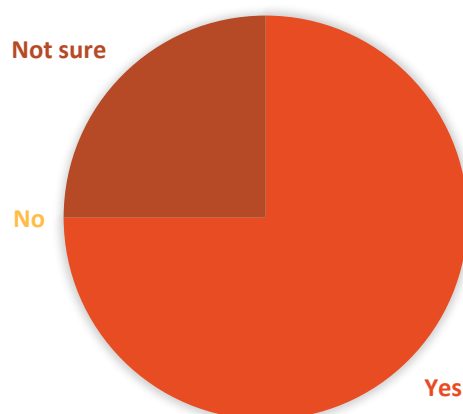
DO YOU FEEL LIKE YOU HAVE GOOD FRIENDS AT MIMBRE YOUTH?



DO YOU FEEL COMFORTABLE AND SAFE TRYING NEW THINGS AT MIMBRE YOUTH?



DO YOU WANT TO COME BACK NEXT TERM?



Are there any specific skills you want to do more of next term or any suggestions how we can make the classes better?

Handstand and head stand and back flip

Back walkovers, aerials

Longer classes, walk-overs etc

More bridges

Cartwheel, round off, bridge to kick over ☺

Front flips

A backflip

More of these days

More of these days, baby ☺

No! It's great! ☺

Handstands

Walkovers

No

Backwards roll

I wanna do more pyramid

Cartwheel

The cartwheels

Cartwheel

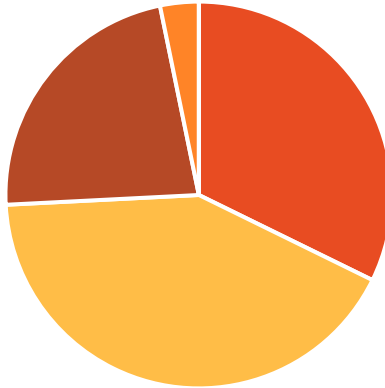
Handstands

Streetdance

Do headstands and rolls

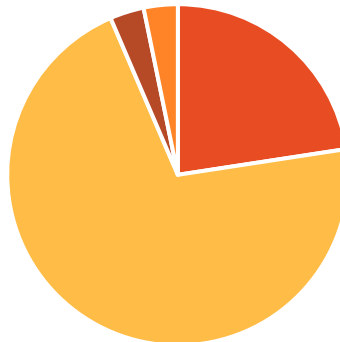
Term 2: spring 2025

Did you enjoy Mimbre Youth classes this term?



■ 5 - Loved it! ■ 4 - Yes! ■ 3 - Most of the time ■ 2- Meh ■ 1 - No

Do you feel like you have got better and learnt some new tricks and skills?

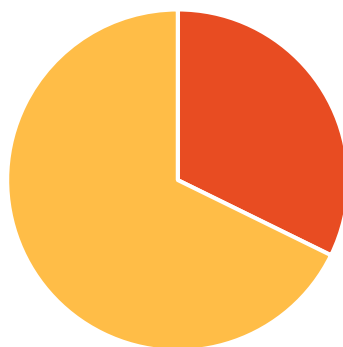


■ Yes lots ■ Yes some ■ No ■ N/A

What's your favourite thing you have been learning or practising this term?

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- Dance
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- Dive roll to round off
- Everything!
- Everything I've learned it not just in this term but the whole time I've been here
- Candlesticks and backward roll and stuck in the mud

Do you feel like you have made new, or stronger, friendships through Mimbre Youth?



■ Yes ■ Yes some ■ No

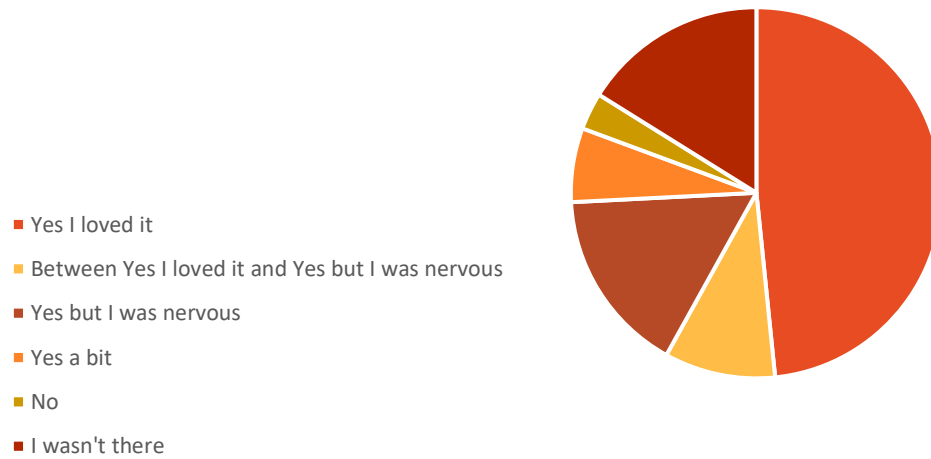


What would you like to do more of next term?

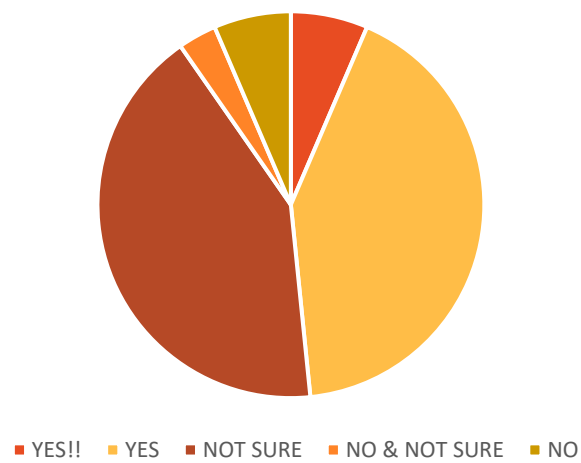
- Not sure, Pyramids
- Cartwheels
- Bridge candlestick
- Headstands and cartwheels
- Pyramids and cartwheels and handstands
- Handstands and pyramids
- Pyramids, shoulder stands, handstands and cartwheels
- Bollywood dancing and name game
- Cartwheels and Bollywood dancing
- Not sure
- I would like everyone in Mimbire to make their own shapes all together with all the teachers. Me doing a cartwheel and juggling.
- IDK
- I want to make more dances on my own
- Cake, games and other mysterious stuff
- Games, stuff, cake and other mysterious stuff
- Back hand-spring, front flips/back, 2-people pyramids
- Shoulder stands and head stands and pyramids
- Handstand, pyramids and cartwheels
- Backflips
- IDK
- Games and tumble
- Don't Know
- I would like to learn more tricks on the tumbletrack because all I've been learning was front handspring
- Dance
- I like it how it is :) <3
- Yes
- IDK
- I want the dance to be harder
- More acrobatic moves like back flip
- Candlesticks

Fun Day

Did you enjoy performing on the Fun Day?



Are you interested in more performance opportunities?





Tuesdays from 29th April to 8th July 2025
(No class May half term) 2025

6-8 years old: 4pm – 4:50pm | 8-10+ years old: 5pm – 6pm | 10-16 years old: 6pm – 7:15pm



FREE OR For Milton Gardens Estate residents and families in need
PAY WHAT YOU CAN

£55 Concession price per term, for low-income families

£130 Full price per term



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

TO SECURE A SPACE EMAIL:
education@mimbre.co.uk

For full information go to:
bit.ly/MimbreYouthClasses

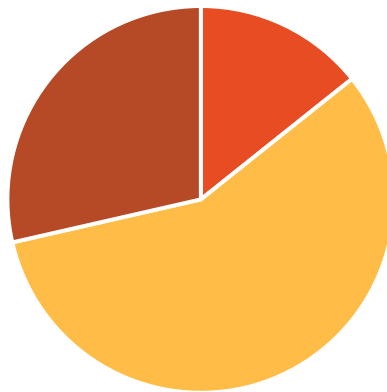
**FUN,
INCLUSIVE
& CREATIVE**



Term 3: summer 2025

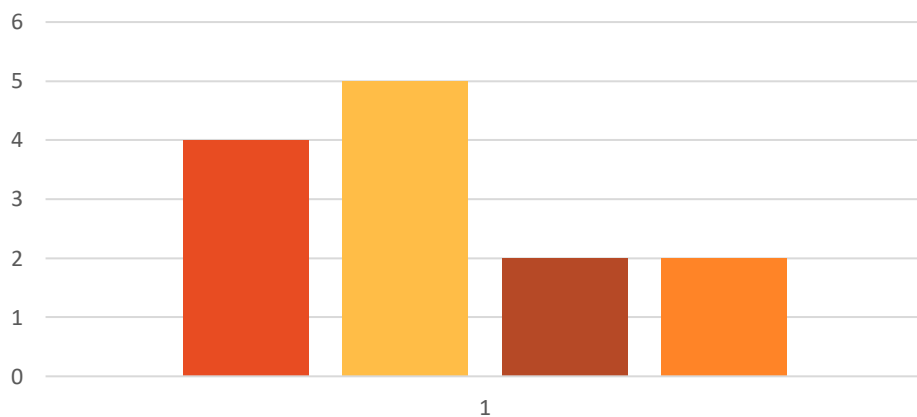
Maxis

Did you enjoy Mimbre Youth classes this term?



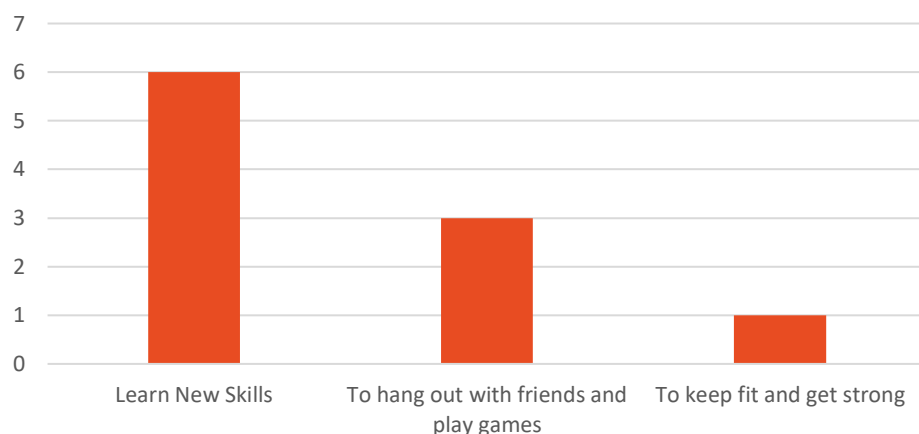
■ Yes I loved it! ■ Yes! ■ Kinda / Meh

Do you think Mimbre Youth makes you...

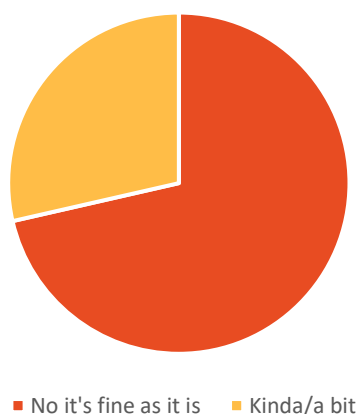


■ Stronger & Fitter ■ Learn New Skills ■ Be More Confident ■ Feel Better in Yourself

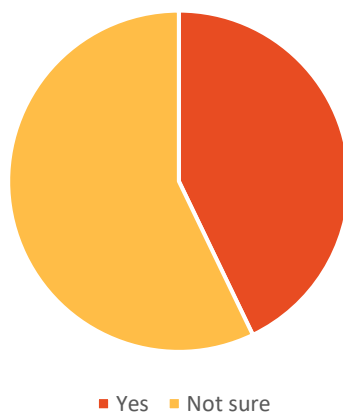
What's the main reason you come to Mimbre Youth?



Do you think the teachers should be stricter about discipline in the classes?

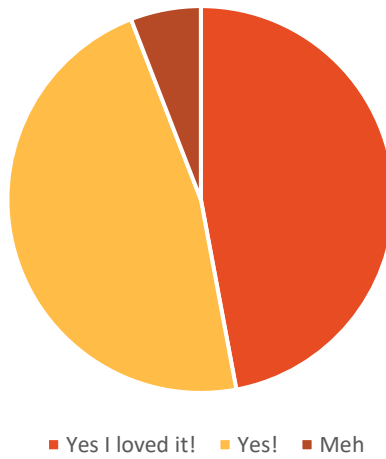


Do you want to come back to Mimbre Youth in the autumn?

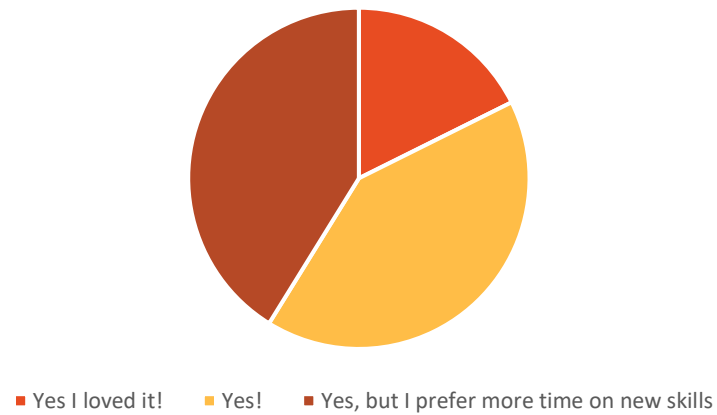


Minis and Midis

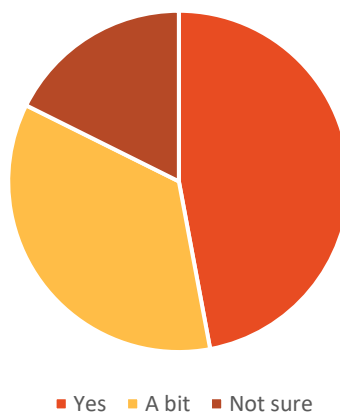
Did you enjoy Mimbre Youth classes this term?



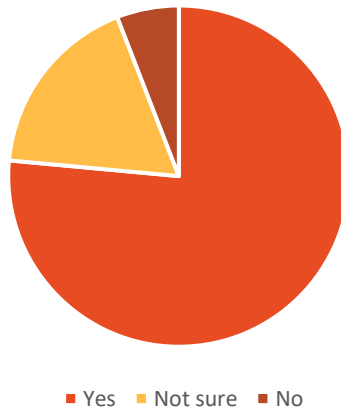
Have you been enjoying being more creative this term?



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



Do you want to come back to Mimbre Youth in the autumn?



Is there anything you would like to do more of next term?

- Handstands
- Everything!
- Yes I would like to do more pyramids and gymnastics
- Yes I would like to do pyramid and gymnastics
- Backflips
- Shoulder stands
- Pyramids
- I would want to practice handstands
- Solo acrobatic skills
- Pyramids
- Cartwheels
- Front walk-overs, back walk-overs etc
- Pyramids
- Eat food every lesson
- Cartwheels, handstands and backbends

Let us know any other thoughts you have about the Mimbre classes

- It is the best place ever.
- Good.
- It is great!
- I sometimes I can be very hard when I am hurt
- I don't know
- Good but it's annoying when people interrupt the class
- No
- IDK
- No
- It is great
- It is fun fun tiring fun
- More performances! More break-dancing! Thank you

What their families think

Term 1: autumn 2024

Do you think the classes have helped to improve your child's...

- Strength & fitness: 95% yes
- Creativity: 85% yes
- Well-being: 85%

Do you think the classes have helped to improve your child's confidence?

- Yes: 90%
- Some: 5%
- Unsure: 5%
- No: 0%

Do you think taking part in Mimbres youth classes has improved your child's ability and willingness to work as part of a team?

- Yes: 85%
- Some: 15%
- Unsure: 0%
- No: 0%

Any thoughts on why these classes have 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?

I can find these classes so good for S because she started to be shy and now she has more confidence in herself. I can also say that these classes helped her with her coordination.

E is really confident in her ability since she has joined the class

Love the creativity, energy, the teamwork. Teachers are all fab!

Better than what is on offer at the school after school clubs. My child has become more confident at taking 'risks' eg in the playground, doing more physically challenging things.

R really enjoys coming to the class. She looks forward to it every week. She does this alongside gymnastics weekly and I have seen a big improvement. She gets to mingle with children from the local area.

Yet again, I cannot tell you how integral Mimbres is not only to my child, but to the local community too. Not only are the classes creative, fun and engaging, but Lina and the Mimbres crew really help the children to support and grow with one another. My daughter adores her Mimbres community.

Brilliant class. Definitely has improved confidence, attention to detail and strength. Such a beautiful space to have available to the kids.

Fun and good level of structure. Great teachers who encourage different friendship groups.

P loves coming to classes. It gives her space to learn things she loves in a comfortable space with no pressure. Most other classes always seem a lot of pressure and more about money than wellbeing.

Great for confidence building and resilience. My child was quick to give in previously, but this has shown her practice and resilience pays off eventually.

The physical exercise, the communication and integrating with kids and adults.

Classes definitely improve coordination, flexibility and communication in group.

Really great. Helps her with her friendship group + beyond. Building confidence.

E loves this physical activity with a small group of her friends. She always comes out buzzing. Thank you!

F has really enjoyed being in the bigger group and has enjoyed meeting new friends now other Shacklewell kids have left. Thank you

I've always loved the combination between creativity, improvisation and movement. A is very expressive and artistic and I truly love the way creativity, fun and movement contributes and opens up this side of her, while gathering strength and confidence.

Improved self-confidence, unique combination of dance and gymnastics

The classes have given her confidence in movement

Any thoughts on what we could do better or differently?

For what I have witnessed all are fine so far

I think you're all doing a great job. Thank you! X

I think it's great. I have no concerns or negative criticism apart from maybe a notice board for parents as most emails end up in junk. You guys are fantastic. Thank you.

I really enjoy the performances so maybe being able to watch a collective performance or holiday camps? Maybe a database for further training/learning. Info on bursaries for dance schools? Honestly, Mimbres does Hackney so proud - the only truly inclusive classes I've ever come across. There's not much they need to work on in my opinion!

Keep going.

The kids got a lot from seeing the Mimbres acrobats perform - really inspiring ☺

Keep it up!

That all fine!

No, you're practically perfect in every way!

I was interested to see the gender balance today. Has it always been mostly girls, or is that a new thing? Not really tied to doing something differently, just an observation

More workshops or creating children's performances would be fantastic.

Happy as it is



Cirque du Soliel trip January 2025

"Hey Silvia, I hope you are enjoying the day after a late night. I wanted to say how much we thank you for the tickets. The show and everything about it was absolutely breathtaking and so enjoyable! 😊

[...]

I woke up laughing this morning remembering the lady suspended on the giant balloons and what amazing sense of humour she had and how it was designed to interact with the public - that was absolutely brilliant! 😊 As well as what fantastic balance the man on the ladder had! The synchronicity on the bars as well as so many other things and skills!

We spoke about it all the way to A's school in the morning and the mood has stayed with me throughout the day! ❤️

A massive thank you! 🙏

A"

"It was a really wonderful experience. We felt so lucky to be there. M is really interested in how much time one has to invest in getting to be that good at what they do which is really positive as I think small kids just assume you're either good at something or not.

Thank you so much Silvia and the whole team for this experience.

Best,

S and M"

"Had a brilliant time & K loved it too!"

"Thanks so much for taking the kids last night - J had a great time and was really quite blown away I think! Less so this morning haha but I think it was worth it!"

"Thanks again for taking Marnie to see Cirque du Soleil last night."

"Thank you so much for orchestrating the trip to Cirque du Soleil. I was absolutely shattered yesterday!

Yet again we had an amazing time, such a valuable experience for all of the kids. Also for me to be able to share that experience and memory with K. We'd never be able to afford tickets to go together so I'm so appreciative to you, Lina, Mimbire and the gang!

It's also such a fantastic group experience, the travel felt like fun, organised chaos. Well done! "

"My girls really enjoyed the show and especially to experience it as a group with this common interest.

I will never thank you enough for the opportunities given to those young children.

There are great to open the eyes and the minds to children who may otherwise never have asked, or afford to attend this kind of quality show.

They are really inspiring and stimulate creativity and create connections with the real world. For example, do you know that L recognised the floor for the Corteo show and remembered this was the ""Labyrinthe"" stone display which can be seen on the floor of the Cathedral of Chartres that we have visited in France over the latest Christmas holiday?

I believe that opportunities like those should be encouraged and multiplied."

"Thank you so much for taking M, he had a great time. It was also the first thing he did on his own. It was a big deal for us."

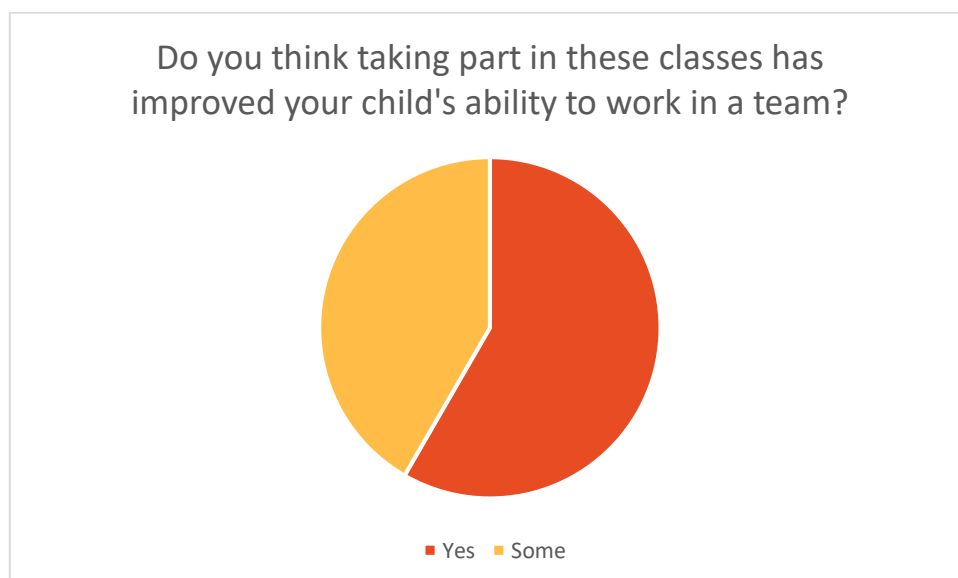
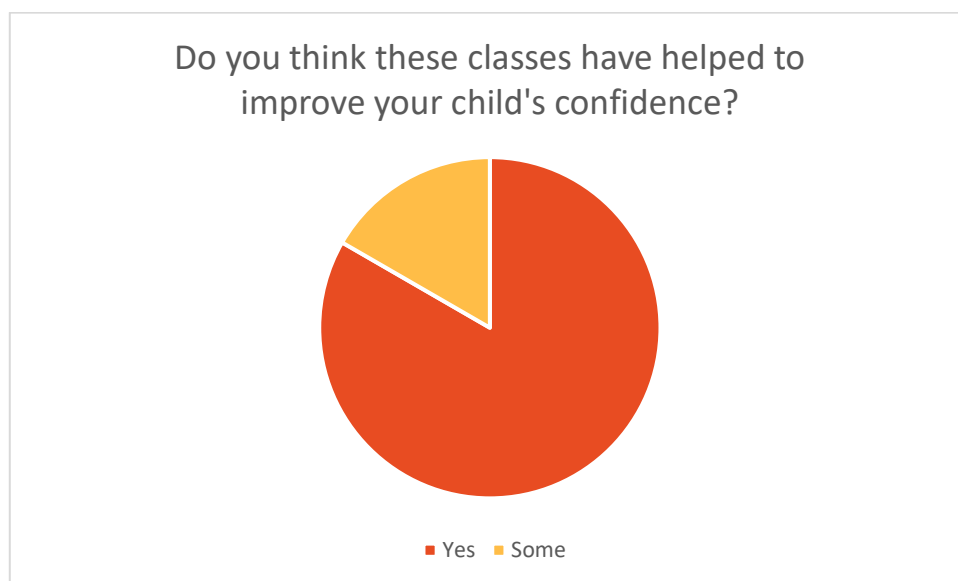
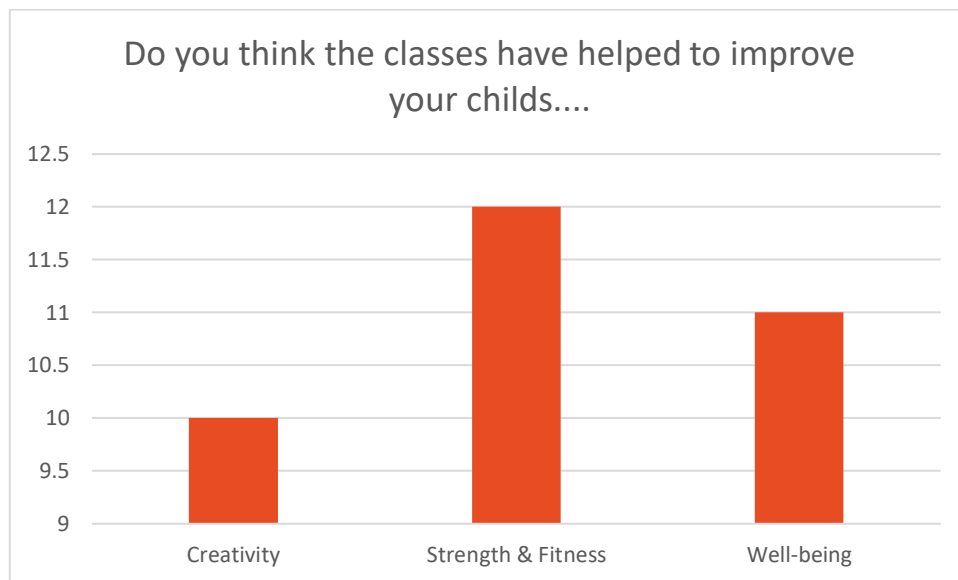
"Hi Silvia thanks so much for allowing me to join and for us all to have that wonderful evening. Well done on getting everyone there in time! [...] It was a really fantastic show that we would never have otherwise gone to, so thanks to you all for making it possible and to you in particular for shepherding everyone so calmly."

Term 2: spring 2025

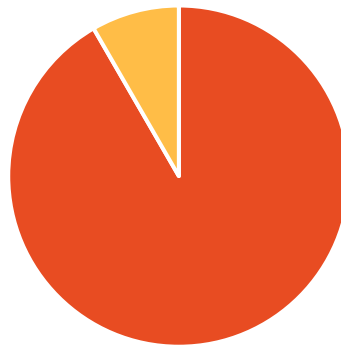
In terms of feedback, we can't sing your praises highly enough. P is thoroughly enjoying her time at Mimbres and as the parent who attends every week, I have been heartened to see her find her place amongst a group that clearly has a lot of children who know each other already and in some cases very well. Even though she knew no-one, the effort you make in insisting that everybody works with everybody and gets to know each other including learning names has not been lost on me (as a former teacher). P's been attending after school clubs outside of school for a while now and this is the first time she has gotten to know people so quickly and made a close friend too who is sadly moving on from Mimbres! This social aspect has been lovely to see.

P being able to express herself confidently and with enthusiasm and at the heart of it, enjoying it all whilst learning new things about what her and other bodies can do, is everything we wanted for her and more from the experience so we are so pleased to finally be a part of the Mimbres family. The icing on the cake was the recent fun day where we got to meet and see so many of the other families and beyond, we are looking forward to what lies ahead and thank you for all of your efforts!

Term 3: summer 2025



Do you feel like Mimbre Youth contributes to a sense of community for you and your child?



■ Yes it does! ■ Yes some

Any thoughts on why these classes have 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?

My child feels very confident trying difficult things as Mimbre has taught that practice makes perfect. The ONLY affordable and genuinely beneficial class, almost impossible to find anything as inclusive and affordable

They make my child, and me!, feel part of a community that spans a few local schools. She has made new friends, appreciates keeping healthy and strong with her friends in a non-competitive environment

Allows them to express their creativity.
Meet children from other schools.
Exposed to adults who are professional creatives.

Mimbre is the only active activity that my kids do as they're not very sporty so I'm really grateful for the fun way you get them moving!

They cover a different skill set to a lot of classes.

They are relaxed which is a nice structure at the end of a school day - a great balance of social and learning.

Huge increase in confidence - mastering new things. By encouraging her to mix with other kids she doesn't know as well rather than clinging onto the friends she comes with from school.

Great place!

A relaxed and informal atmosphere whilst still instilling discipline + application - a perfect balance + very positive all round.

Love that the club is inclusive.

Fun, strength, confidence :)

Engaging, fun, think out of the box.

Any thoughts on things we could better or differently?

- I love what you all do with these classes. Thank you!
- Maybe understanding the progression and goals
- Not that I can think of.
- None. We've all enjoyed the experience.



Images by HeardInLondon and the Mimbres team