



PARENT SURVEY RESPONSES MARCH 2020

A huge thank you to all the parents that took time to fill in the survey, it is massively appreciated, and it really helps us develop even further. Your views and opinions are important to us because only together can we develop Silhouette Youth Theatre to be the best it can be! Please be aware that all responses were anonymous, and I cannot thank you enough for your honesty, positivity and for being so supportive!

Question: How many of your children attend Silhouette Youth Theatre?
1 – 70% 2 – 26% 3 – 5%
Question: How many sessions do they do in a week?
1 – 37% 2 – 14% 3 – 23% 4 – 7% 5 – 5% 6 – 7% Over 6 – 7%
Question: What stops them from attending more sessions?
Money – 19% No time in the week left – 56% Their choice – 12% Transport – 2% Times of the sessions – 7% Workload – 21% Other reasons – 9%
How did you hear about Silhouette?
My child went to LPAA – 40% I heard it from a friend – 16% I was in the centre and I saw it – 16% My child's school told me about it – 16% Other ways – 12%
How would you describe sessions at Silhouette?
Excellent – 88% Very Good – 9% Good – 0% Average – 2% Below average – 0% Terrible – 0%
Has attending Silhouette had an impact on your child's life?
Yes – 98% No – 0% Don't know – 2%
How has Silhouette impacted on their lives, you can tick more than one!
They are more confident – 84% They are happier – 47% They have made more friends – 72%

Their skills in the performing arts – 79%
More opportunities – 70%
Broadened aspirations – 63%
A possible career path – 42%
They have found adults they can trust – 44%
It has challenged them to improve further – 60%
Other impacts – 16%

Has attending Silhouette had an impact on their school / home life? Please tell us how?

In a mainly male, sport filled household, it broadens her experiences and gives her an outlet in which to shine.

Increased confidence to try something new. My daughter has improved her ability to retain lines through new techniques taught and this will inevitably impact on her exam revision.

Yes they are confident in understanding Shakespeare which is compulsory in English gcse and also everything they learn at silhouette helps with their drama. I also think they have become a better person for going to silhouette and being part of what feels like a great big happy family

At school it has improved his confidence in his drama class and at home he enjoys learning his script and looks forward to sessions.

Yes it did, they are more confident and believe in themselves. They know that anything is achievable in life.

They have had a place where they can go and be themselves. They have been allowed to celebrate their creativity in a safe and supportive environment. Their school is cutting their arts departments - this has been her life line!

It has improved reading and tested her memory

Yes, this is one of my daughter's safe havens. Being bullied at school means she lost all confidence and trust with students and teachers there. At silhouette she has a huge amount of respect and trust with the students and teachers/mentors. This has hugely impacted her mental health. She feels confident and comfortable there. The teachers are supporting and understanding to both my daughter and us as parents.

It has given my daughter the opportunity to do drama and dance- something that she wouldn't experience at school. It is something that she loves, and without it, she would be a very different person. Before Silhouette, she was very low at times. She wasn't enjoying school as there were no subjects, she had a passion for. Since Silhouette has been around, she has become so much happier and is doing well at school, has a good group of friends who share her passion. She is generally a much more positive person at home too, thanks to having Silhouette in our lives!

It is a place my children feel safe, with difficulties in school they can escape that at silhouette and express themselves freely

They are more confident to take a lead in PA sessions in school.

Made more friends, loves singing and dancing

My Daughter is very happy and it gives her a focus and more importantly it means she can achieve her goals and believe in herself.

Helps them in English literature

They are happy and look forward to the session each week

Developed her confidence and self-esteem and believes that she can do it !!!

Yes has impacted his overall well-being more confidence in all areas at school and within himself.

She does practice at home instead of complaining of being bored at home

Generally more confidence in social situations and with meeting and working with new people (other kids and adults). Working with both older and younger kids has also made them less worried about navigating their way through growing up as they can see that teenagers are not that different to them!!

More confident in school.

Has increased confidence

Provides structure to enjoyable activities also provides accessibility to arts that are typically denied to my child who has additional needs.

She is much happier at home singing and dancing and showing us what she has done. More confidence at school and county lessons when trying out for parts

More confident and believes in herself more

More confident all round.

His confidence to try new things and openly be into drama and the arts, is amazing

Made them more confident at school and school drama club

Has improved their work ethic.

Silhouette is feeding their creativity and expanding their mind which knocks on into their academic world, teaching them to think outside the box with confidence. Home life is full of singing, dancing and impromptu performances which draws everyone into its magic. I can't speak highly enough of the importance of nourishing these vital aspects of childhood.

Big influence on achieving 'mastery' status in Performing Arts classes at school. Massive impact on confidence and belief in self. Created a definite sense of direction.

My child has become more disciplined.

More confidence.

She is so confident and always excited to go to drama club

Much improved. More focus. Better time management.

Given confidence and a sense of family and belonging outside school/home which has then impacted positively on those aspects of life.

She is much more confident and outgoing and she herself belief has increased enormously. Although still quiet in the classroom teachers have commented that she 'comes alive' when they do work around drama, scripts and analysing texts. They work together at home as they are both often found dancing and showing each other what they have been doing, particularly what their Saturdays have involved.

My Son calls Silhouette his "Happy Place" no matter what is going on at home/school He can go to Silhouette and talk about it or just forget about what is going on for a few hours.

Song writing has help with her anxiety

Better behaviour from all kids

How safe do they feel at Silhouette?

5 out of 5 – 95%

4 out of 5 – 5%

Lower than that – 0%

Average – 4.95 out of 5.

How would your life change if Silhouette was not here?

The dynamism, energy and confidence that Silhouette provides my daughter and other children with would be a huge personal loss. Also, it's located at the heart of the Weston Favell community (Emmanuel Church and shop units) and I feel is excellent for forging strong community links with the library, shops, cafes etc. Furthermore, by working with children from all communities, it teaches them that they can all achieve and aspire to be anything that they want to be.

We are relatively new to the school but I'm sure my daughter would feel a sense of loss and belonging.

They would be more introverted and less able in most aspects of life

He wouldn't have a hobby so would socialise less.

It would be sad and boring.

My child would not be happy and we would have to find somewhere else. It would be virtually impossible!

My daughter would be upset

It would be boring

My daughters would struggle finding another company with the same standard of teaching, content and family environment like silhouette provides. Financially we would struggle too to give our daughters the same sessions /opportunities.

I don't want to think about what would happen to my Daughter and her friends of Silhouette as so much has changed since it became such a big part of our lives. I think she would suffer at school and at home, which would affect us all.

My kids both look forward to their sessions, if there was no silhouette then there would be nothing else for them to do.

My child would spend more time on their iPad or phone

My Daughter would have nothing to do and would feel upset. My daughter wouldn't have the opportunity to focus on her future and would miss attending a social environment. It's like family to her and allows her to be herself without being judged. I would rather my daughter have somewhere to go than be on the streets or doing nothing with her life. It gives us as a family a sense of safety and happiness knowing she is doing what she loves. Leigh, Sam and all the staff are absolutely amazing and without them we would all be lost with deep sadness. The passion and care and believe they have is absolutely outstanding.

They would be stuck indoors doing nothing

They would be upset as they wouldn't be able to do drama anymore

My daughter would really miss it as you have given her some amazing opportunities

It would be boring, lack of engagement with others and would mean being less active and lack of gaining so many life skills.

My child definitely will feel upset

She would miss it greatly.

We'd all have more free time - ha ha!

My daughter would lose the confidence that she has gained since being at silhouette and having experienced different dance/drama schools she would not be happy to go elsewhere.

It wouldn't bring as many opportunities, and the children wouldn't have the opportunity to develop the skills they want to continue to grow

My child would simply not be able to enjoy the arts neither believe and see that there is room for achievement in the arts regardless of disability. We can not lose silhouette youth theatre, this is the ONLY arts group in the whole of Northampton that is affordable for underprivileged children, accepts all abilities without caution or discrimination and gives all of its students opportunity to perform.

My daughter loves performing so I would have to try to find another opportunity for her but this would likely be more costly and I love the passion that Leigh and Sam have for a what they do so don't really want to have to start over trying to find a drama school that offers as much as silhouette does!

Without silhouette I do not think she would be as confident as she is now

She would be very sad not to attend and we could not afford for her to go anywhere else

Silhouette has opened his eyes to a wide diverse world, and is leaning so much about life skills,

I would have a disappointed child

Silhouette has impacted for better in their life (all points in question 8)

Life would not hold the same sparkle for my daughter, she absolutely adores her time at Silhouette and the chances she gets to perform and mix with the other children and those benefits she gets that seep into school and everyday life would no longer be there. We would be incredibly sad if there was no silhouette.

Lack of direction, comradery - absence of being amongst likeminded, similarly driven young people - it would leave a huge gap in their life.

If Silhouette was to close we would feel very disappointed and look for an alternative way to get to the "Silhouette experience", sense of achievement and way of thinking.

My child wouldn't have it to look forward to

Life would feel empty. Silhouette is so much fun. I love it.

It would feel, for her, as though a part of her was missing. Developing would suffer academically and personally not to mention the fun that's had.

I really fear she would go back into herself if she didn't have this creative outlet. Silhouette not only provides the children and young people with sessions and extra opportunities to develop their interests, skills and talents, but it provides children a safe and secure place to enjoy themselves with like minded individuals. The extended family that Silhouette provides to its children, young people has a hugely positive impact on their well-being and mental health. Having places with teaching staff who are so supportive and look after the children. young people and families in such a holistic way are very few and far between.

My eldest son is 14 and attends SYTC 4 evenings a week and almost all day Saturday, I dread to think what he would be doing if he didn't have it there, either being a zombie in front of a computer game or out running around the streets. I love that I know where he is and am happy to be "Mum Taxi"

I'd have a very different child

My kids say they couldn't live without it!

How would you like to see Silhouette develop even further?

Keep up the great work.

We are only at the beginning of our Silhouette journey and already we can see things changing, new opportunities arising and aspirations to grow and develop seem to be moving forward. My hope would be that more funding is secured to allow more children the opportunity to grow, develop and aim high.

Your do a great job but would love to see the progression of older children running or helping to run sessions for younger children- silhouette the next generation!

It would be great if Silhouette expanded and were able to have sessions nearer to us as he would be able to attend more sessions which would really please him.

I would like them to continue providing opportunities for your people!

It is perfect as it is. It would be great to have our OWN theatre!

Costumes for shows and props

More upbeat music in the music sessions

I would love silhouette to be more financially supported for their efforts. Their standard of teaching and sessions are amazing. The opportunities with the RSC have been something my daughter would have never done before, and my daughters would have never been able to dance, act and be taught by such a professional and talented teachers/mentors that silhouette provides.

I think it has already developed greatly since it began as there are so many sessions which my Daughter already attends. I think it could improve by running workshops during the holidays.

A bit more communication

Carry on growing and doing what they already do best

Silhouette has developed and improved so much since it first opened and we wouldn't change anything.

Improve communication

Young children's ballet classes and adult beginners dance class.

I'm not sure as children are really happy just the way it is

To continue working as hard as you already are

Try and raise More funding in order to deliver community performances. Also classes or experience working behind the scenes such as lighting, costumes ,backdrops ,sounds ,creative music. Look at developing own show.

Big places and more show ,which parents can see their performances regularly

Don't know

An annual bigger production with costume/make up etc. Musical theatre sessions to be more like at LPAA - session divided into equal split between singing/dancing/acting

We enjoy silhouette just the way it is. It already has a great ethos and gives children excellent support and opportunities.

Classes split by ability not age

Funding for better administration, larger spaces for sessions, invitations for performances all over the UK, funding for equipment, successful performers invited to come and speak to the youth.

I believe Leigh and his team have a great vision for silhouette and would like to see their dreams come true for all the youth who would benefit from it!

I think it is good as it is

Continue to grow

I think they do all and more and cannot think of anything they don't already do

At this stage Silhouette and the opportunities that keep coming up have blown our mind so can't even dream of any further developments

Keep doing what you are doing, kids get so much value and confidence from it

keep doing on good work

My magic wand wish is that silhouette gets seen for what it is, a vital part of both the arts, the local community and a place for nourishing creativity, self-respect and love and confidence in young people. I would like to see it get the funding it so richly deserves, and that Silhouette is able to expand its premises. I feel that a needed step is for those who devote so much time and effort voluntarily to be able to work there permanently, should they so wish, with wages so this whole organization can expand at the rate it needs to. Given those circumstances, I feel that the sky is the limit for Silhouette

More out of term workshops/activities

I hope that they will find a way to give us back the music session on Wednesday.

Although they do a lot already I would love to see them do more performances for the community

Larger premises more children and more exposure

Get funding to ensure stability and enable core staff to focus on developing young people more and extend reach in community.

Keep doing what you're all doing-it works!

I love how Silhouette currently runs, It has grown so much since its began but it has still managed to keep its strong community feel. I would like to see Silhouette take their sessions out into the community (shopping centre) more. So many people stop and look at the windows when sessions are running, it would be great to show them what really goes on inside. It also helps to build the children's confidence, particularly for the younger groups, performing to the public.

With the right funding the Sky's the limit with this group! I know that our family will be involved with SYTC for many years to come and I am very excited x

No improvement required

It would be good if we could look at as many dance styles as possible.

And there you have it – powerfully positive stuff! Now it's time to work on the areas to improve EVEN further! Thank you – thank you and THANK YOU AGAIN!

The Silhouette Team