

**BANG'S PEER  
RESEARCH INTO  
THE NEEDS AND  
ASPIRATIONS OF  
YOUNG PEOPLE IN  
BRENT**

**BANG**

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# INTRODUCTION

Between 2024 and 2025, BANG Edutainment conducted youth-led peer research to better understand the interests, skills, aspirations, and support needs of children and young people across Brent. The research, conducted through a survey, forms part of BANG's wider commitment to ensuring that its programmes are shaped by the lived experiences and voices of young people.

The survey was delivered through a combination of in-person engagement within education settings, circulation through partner organisations, and online distribution. This mixed approach enabled BANG to reach a broad and diverse group of young people and ensured that voices from both school environments and community programmes were represented.

The survey was conducted across several education settings, including:

- Preston Park Primary School
- St Claudine's Catholic School for Girls
- Barham Primary School
- Saint Mary Magdalen's Roman Catholic Junior School
- Ark Elvin Academy
- College of North West London

In addition to school-based delivery, the survey was shared with BANG's network of community partners and made available online. This allowed children and young people participating in community programmes and partner-led activities to contribute their views and experiences.

The purpose of the survey was to gain meaningful insight into:

- The diverse interests of children and young people
- Their current skills and areas for development
- Skills gaps and new skills they would like to develop
- Additional support or resources they may require
- How BANG can design and deliver programmes that are relevant, responsive, and impactful

# INTRODUCTION

By gathering this insight directly from young people, BANG aims to ensure that programme design, partnerships, and future initiatives are grounded in evidence rather than assumptions.

The findings from this survey will directly inform BANG's future programme development, youth leadership opportunities, and partnership activity. The results also contribute to wider community reporting and advocacy, enabling BANG to share youth-led insight with partners, schools, local organisations, and stakeholders in order to strengthen the case for continued investment in opportunities for young people.

# THE TEAM

Meet the team behind the BANG Peer Research.

The peer research was carried out by BANG interns from Brunel University.

The research was delivered through a survey, with the team engaging with schools and the community, working with trusted partner organisations, and distributing the survey online.

This approach enabled BANG to reach a wide and diverse group of young people. By meeting them where they are, the research captured a broad range of experiences and perspectives.

A key strength of BANG Research is that it was youth-led. Young people were not just participants - they played an active role throughout the process. They helped design the survey, supported its delivery, and encouraged their peers to take part.

This made the questions more relevant, built trust, and increased participation. It also ensured that the findings reflect real experiences and honest views from young people.

The project was supported and driven by a dedicated group of BANG interns, whose ideas, creativity, and commitment played a vital role in its success:

Melissa Cawthorne-Young

Guinevere Moreno

Elisa Girasole

Jourdyn Chor

Marsn Elias

Vanessa Bou Karroum

Akshana Ragoonath

Solange Kayana Fyffe

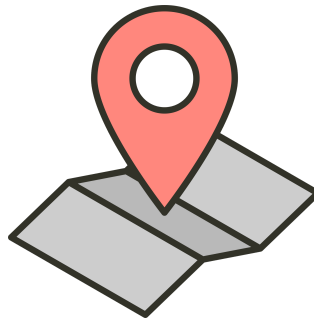
Together, this team ensured the research was meaningful, with young people's voices and experiences at the centre of the work.

# PARTICIPANT PROFILE

**1,000+**  
Respondents



**20+**  
Postcode Districts



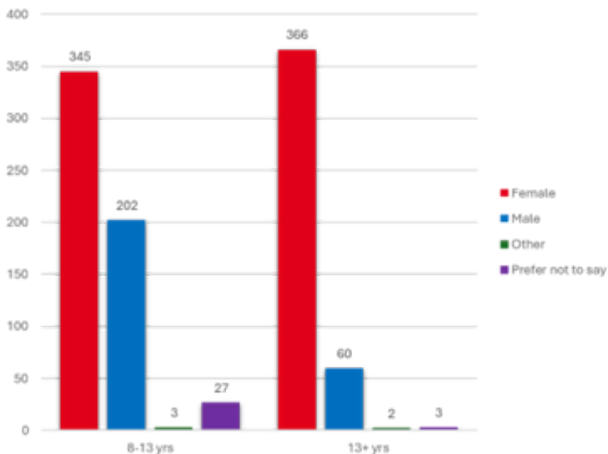
**Majority**  
Aged 8 - 13



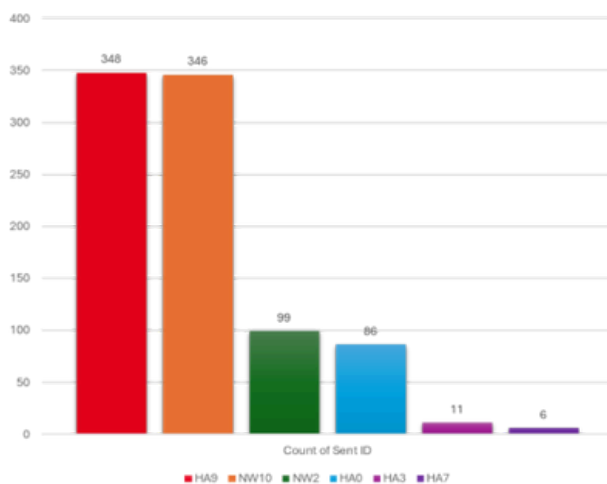
Survey responses were received from children and young people living across several areas of Brent and surrounding communities.

The highest concentration of responses came from HA9, NW10, Wembley, Willesden and the surrounding areas, reflecting BANG's strong local reach within these communities.

## GENDER & AGE DISTRIBUTION



## TOP PARTICIPANT LOCATIONS



# INTEREST IN DIFFERENT CULTURES

The research shows strong enthusiasm among young people for learning about and celebrating different cultures. Nearly **70%** of participants expressed interest in cultural learning, with the most popular activities including trying foods from different cultures and taking part in cultural celebrations.

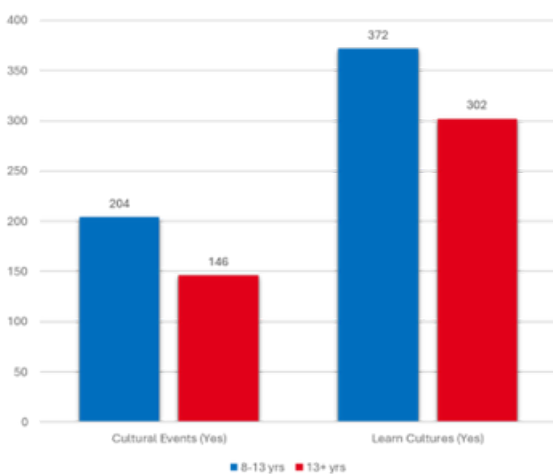
These findings highlight opportunities for BANG to develop cultural learning initiatives such as workshops, creative exhibitions, and food-based cultural experiences that engage young people in exploring heritage and identity.

The results also suggest strong potential for a youth-led cultural festival celebrating diverse cultures through food, performance, and creative arts. Such an event could strengthen partnerships with arts organisations, museums, and cultural institutions.

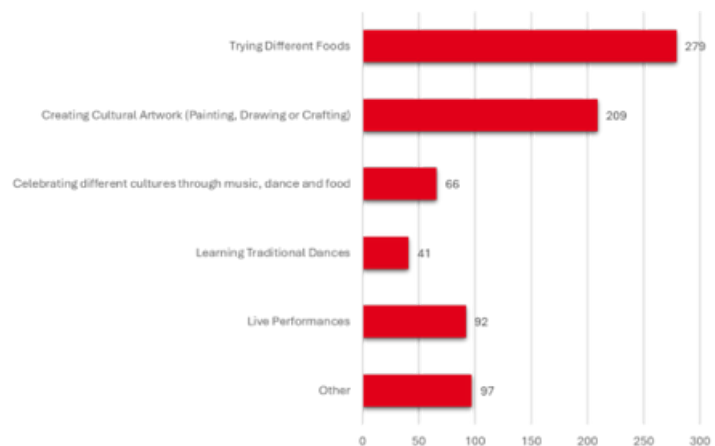
The findings reinforce the success of BANG's Who Am I? Programme, which enables young people to explore their origins and celebrate their heritage. The programme has already successfully engaged students from Ark Elvin Academy, Preston Park Primary School, and St Claudine's Catholic School for Girls.

## CULTURAL PARTICIPATION & INTEREST IN DIVERSITY

INTEREST IN CULTURAL EVENTS & LEARNING



MOST POPULAR ACTIVITIES



# ENVIRONMENT

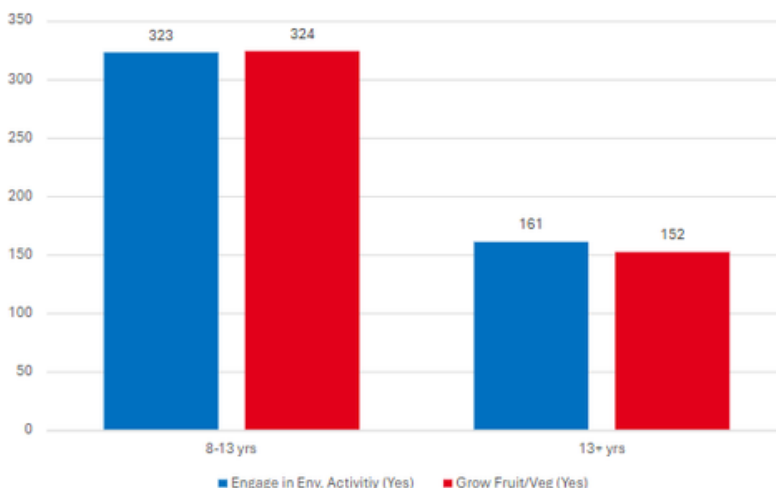
Survey responses show a strong interest in environmental activity and sustainability.

Around **48%** of participants said they would like to take part in activities that help make their communities cleaner and greener.

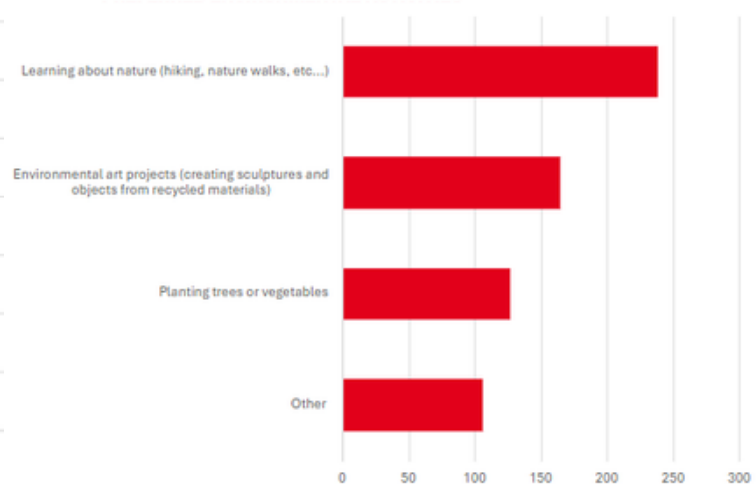
When asked about environmental learning, nearly **30%** of respondents expressed interest in nature-based learning. Within this, **19%** said they would like to take part in planting and gardening activities, while **17%** were interested in developing eco-projects. In addition, almost half of the respondents said they would like to grow their own fruit and vegetables.

These findings highlight a clear opportunity to expand environmental education and practical sustainability activities for young people. In response, BANG will explore the development of youth-led environmental volunteering opportunities and eco-leadership pathways, working in partnership with organisations such as Groundwork, local councils, and sustainability organisations.

**INTEREST IN ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP**



**PREFERRED ENVIRONMENTAL ACTIVITIES**



# HEALTH AND WELLBEING

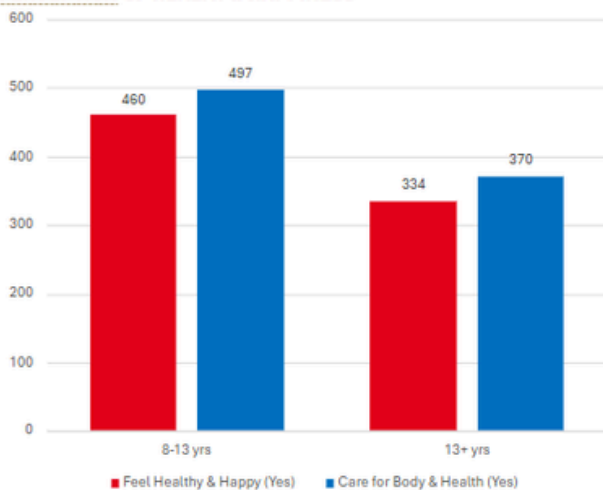
The research shows strong interest in health and wellbeing among young people. **79%** of participants said they enjoy activities that help them stay healthy and happy, while **86%** reported that they actively care about their physical wellbeing.

In addition, nearly two-thirds expressed interest in taking part in sports workshops.

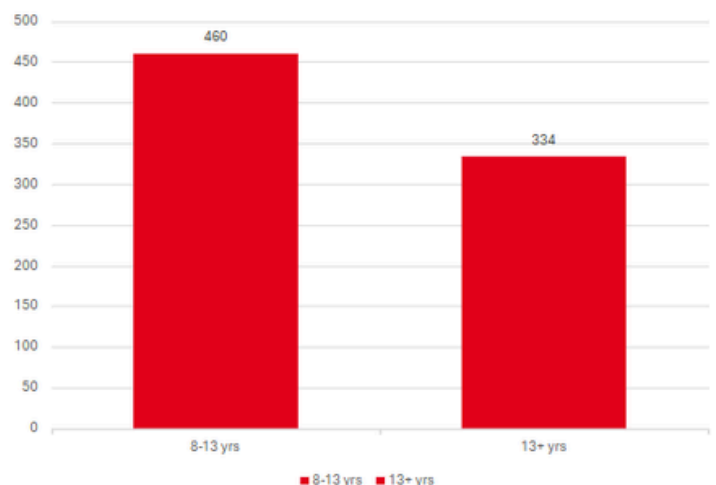
In response to these findings, BANG will explore the development of a Youth Wellbeing & Activity Hub, offering sports activities, healthy eating workshops, and dedicated girls' health spaces to support both physical and mental wellbeing.

This initiative will also create opportunities for BANG to engage with health sector partners to co-design programmes that support young people's wellbeing.

## PERCEPTION OF HEALTH & HAPPINESS



## INTEREST IN SPORTS & WORKSHOPS

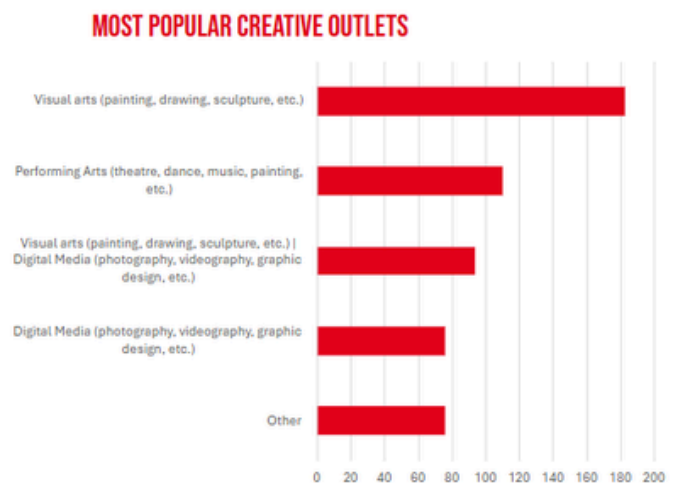
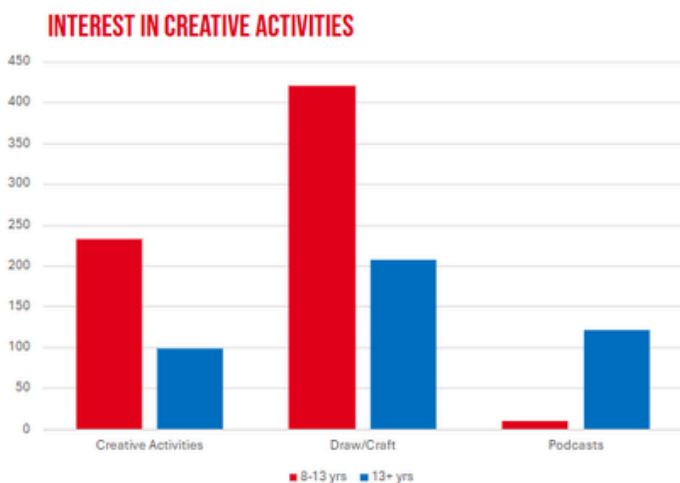


# CREATIVE EXPRESSION

The research shows strong interest in creative activities among young people. A majority of participants expressed enthusiasm for taking part in arts workshops.

**62%** showed interest in traditional creative activities such as drawing and painting, while almost half were interested in creating digital media, including content for social media and radio.

In response, BANG will expand opportunities for creative expression through Digital Media Labs, podcasting studios, and creative leadership roles, supporting young people to develop skills in both traditional arts and digital media.



# PROFESSIONAL SKILLS DEVELOPMENT

The research highlights strong demand for support in preparing for employment. **44%** of young people said they need help getting ready for jobs, while **38%** said they might need support and **18%** said they do not require help.

Communication was the most requested skill, followed by maths, presentation, and computing, with additional interest in decision-making, interviewing, and literacy skills.

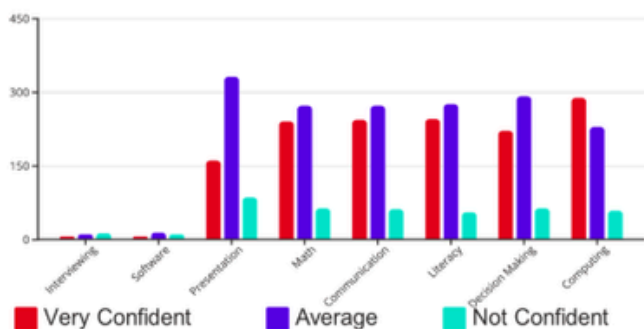
Across both age groups, most participants reported moderate confidence in core skills such as English and maths, with confidence increasing among the 13+ age group.

However, interviewing and software skills were identified as weaker areas. Younger participants (**8-13**) also reported lower confidence in presenting their ideas compared to older participants.

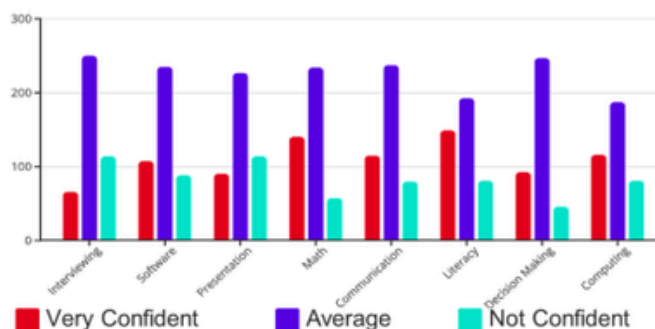
These findings highlight an opportunity for BANG to develop a Professional Skills Programme, working with employers, colleges, and mentors to provide real-world experience, strengthen internship and T-Level pathways, and build confidence in key workplace skills.

## PROFESSIONAL SKILLS DEVELOPMENT - 2

### CONFIDENCE IN DIFFERENT SKILLS (8-13 YRS)



### CONFIDENCE IN SKILLS (13+ YRS)



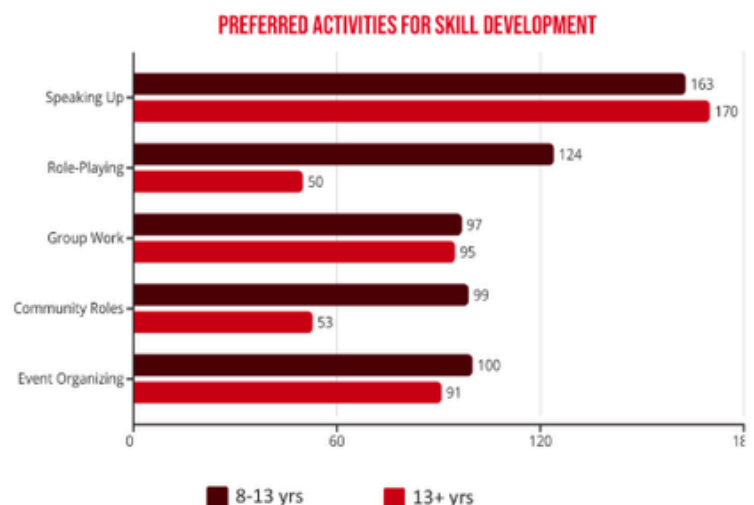
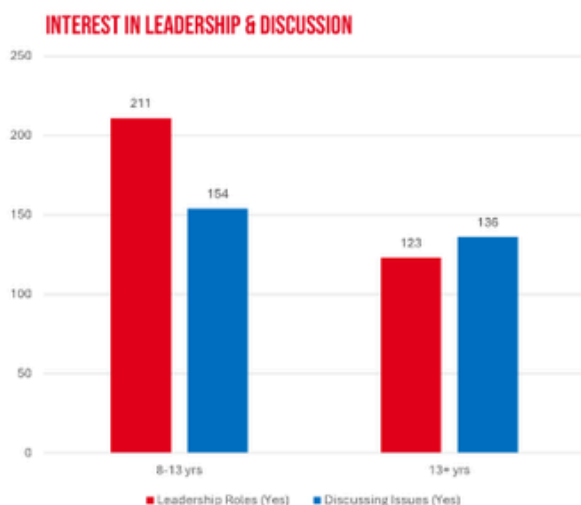
# YOUTH LEADERSHIP & YOUTH VOICE

The research highlights a growing interest in youth leadership and participation in decision-making. Among younger participants aged 8–13, **37%** expressed interest in leadership roles, while **40%** were unsure and **23%** were not interested. Among older participants aged 13+, **29%** expressed interest in leadership, while **38%** said they were unsure about getting involved.

The findings also show interest in young people having spaces to discuss issues affecting them. **27%** of younger participants and **32%** of older participants said they would like opportunities to share and discuss their concerns, although over **37%** in both groups were unsure about doing so.

In response, BANG will expand its Young Leaders Programme by creating clearer leadership pathways through community roles, event organisation, and youth speaking platforms. BANG will also strengthen youth voice in decision-making by embedding young people more directly in organisational processes, including participation in strategy discussions and board meetings.

## YOUTH LEADERSHIP & VOICE



# GIRLS' VOICE & CONFIDENCE WORKSHOP

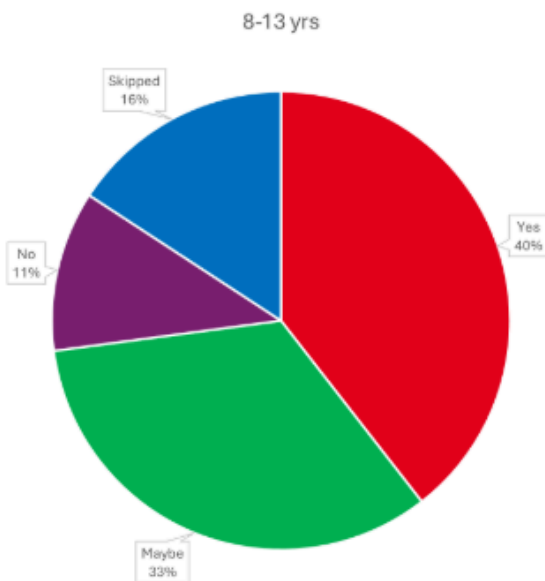
Across nearly **400 young respondents**, around **40%** said girls have a voice, while **33%** were unsure and 11% said no, suggesting that many young people feel more work is needed to strengthen girls' participation and confidence.

The research indicates that girls are interested in support with confidence-building activities, sports, creative skills, and future career development. Some respondents also noted they are not yet ready to share their ideas, highlighting the importance of creating safe and supportive spaces where girls feel comfortable expressing themselves.

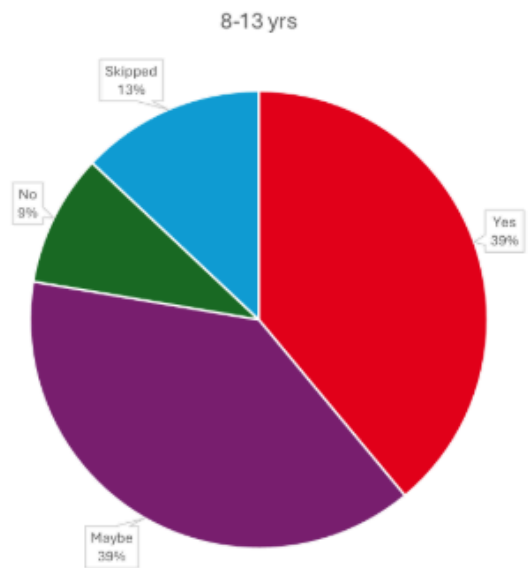
Interest in all-girls workshops was also strong, with **39%** saying yes and another **39%** saying maybe, indicating significant demand for targeted programmes that support girls' confidence, wellbeing, and leadership.

## GIRLS' VOICE & WORKSHOP CONFIDENCE

### GIRLS' VOICES BEING HEARD



### CONFIDENCE IN WORKSHOP

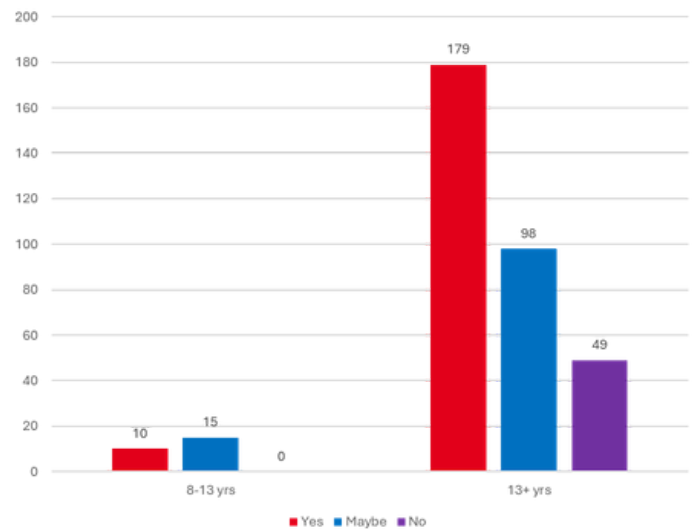
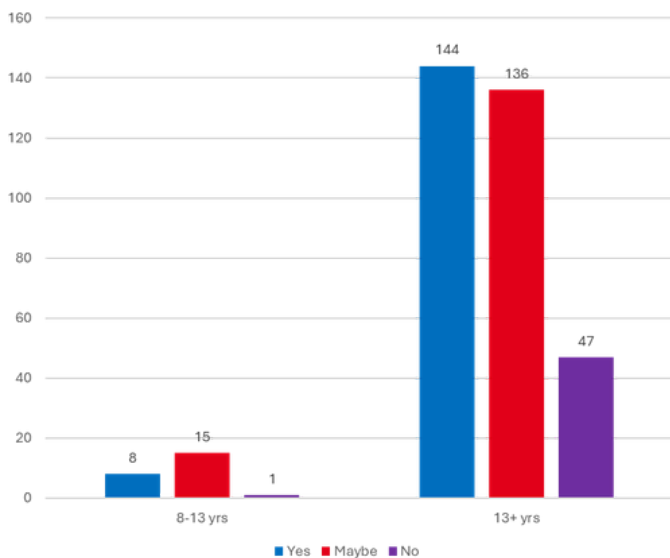


# GIRLS' VOICE, CONFIDENCE AND SAFETY INSIGHTS

Older students reported greater confidence in speaking up, with around **one-third** feeling able to use their voice, compared with very few participants under 13.

Similarly, **42%** of older girls said they felt comfortable discussing women's health, while younger girls were significantly less confident. Those who felt unsure often highlighted the need for age-appropriate activities, safe spaces, and confidence-building opportunities.

These findings highlight an opportunity for BANG to strengthen girls-only spaces through confidence workshops, health education programmes, and primary-to-secondary transition support for girls.



# SEND AWARENESS

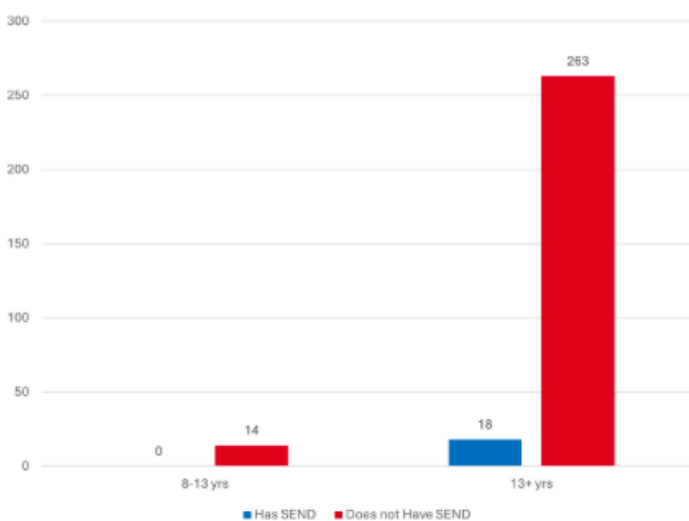
Only **18** respondents aged 13+ reported having SEND, while most participants indicated that they do not. This may suggest low identification of SEND needs or that some young people are uncertain about the support available to them.

These findings highlight an opportunity for BANG to strengthen its SEND-focused provision by working more closely with schools and parents to improve identification, awareness, and confidence among young people with additional needs.

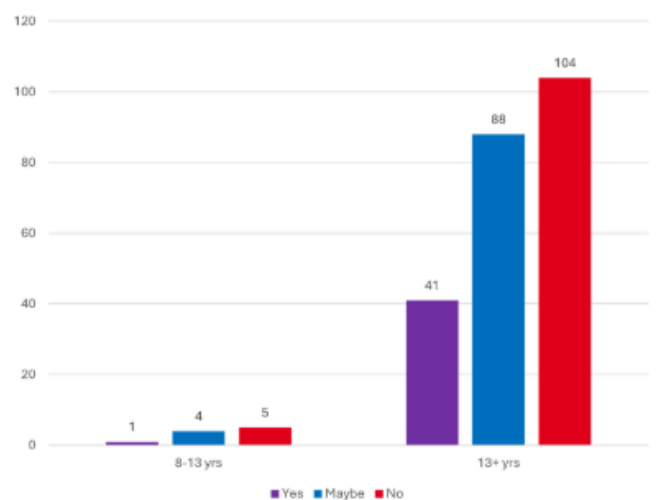
BANG will explore expanding inclusive programmes such as arts, games, storytelling, and outdoor activities and events, alongside existing projects, to ensure that young people with SEND have accessible opportunities to participate and thrive.

## SEND AWARENESS & EMPOWERMENT

RESPONDENTS WITH SEND



CONFIDENCE IN SEND EMPOWERMENT



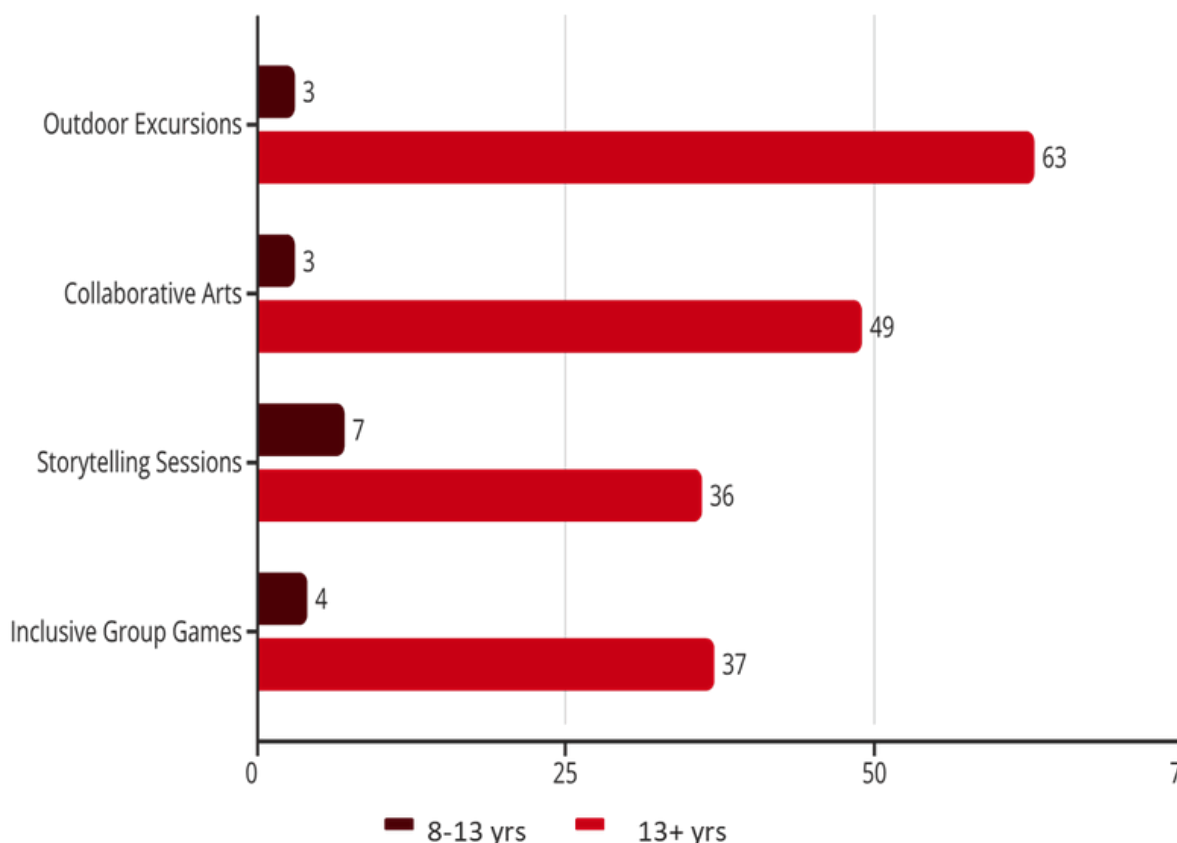
# SEND LEADERSHIP

Interest in SEND leadership shows growing confidence among older participants, with **129 respondents** aged 13+ expressing interest in taking on leadership roles.

Preferred inclusive activities also increased with age, with outdoor excursions and inclusive group games identified as the most popular choices.

The findings highlight a strong preference for creative, collaborative, and nature-based activities, reinforcing the value of hands-on and social experiences that build confidence in SEND-inclusive settings.

These insights indicate the need for further focused research on SEND, enabling BANG to better understand the experiences, barriers, and support needs of young people with additional needs. A follow-up SEND study will help inform the development of more inclusive programmes, leadership opportunities, and partnerships with schools, families, and specialist organisations.



# WHAT THIS MEANS FOR BANG

This peer research was undertaken to better understand the interests, skills, aspirations, and support needs of young people in the communities BANG serves. By gathering insight directly from young people, the research aims to ensure that BANG's programmes and partnerships are shaped by real experiences rather than assumptions.

The research highlights several important insights for BANG's future development.

First, the findings show a clear demand from young people for more opportunities, particularly in creative expression, leadership, wellbeing activities, and skills development.

Second, the results reinforce BANG's ability to deliver a holistic youth development model, combining programmes across arts and culture, environmental action, wellbeing, employability, and youth leadership.

Third, the research highlights strong opportunities to strengthen partnerships with key stakeholders, including:

- Schools and colleges
- Cultural institutions
- Environmental organisations
- Local authorities
- Health and wellbeing providers
- Corporate partners

Finally, the findings highlight significant potential to expand youth leadership and enterprise pathways, enabling young people to take greater ownership of programmes, projects, and community initiatives.

# WHAT THIS MEANS FOR BANG

Overall, the peer research provides far more than a snapshot of young people's interests and priorities. It offers a strong evidence base to inform BANG's future planning, programme development, and long-term growth.

By identifying the activities, opportunities, and issues that matter most to young people, the findings will help ensure that BANG's services remain relevant, engaging, and responsive to their needs.

The research also highlights opportunities to expand and strengthen BANG's offer, particularly in areas such as creativity, leadership, volunteering, wellbeing, and environmental action. These insights can guide the development of programmes that both reflect current interests and respond to emerging needs.

Equally important is the role of partnership working. By continuing to collaborate with schools, community organisations, and other local partners, BANG can extend its reach, enhance its impact, and create more joined-up opportunities for young people.

Most importantly, the findings reinforce the importance of keeping young people's voices at the centre of decision-making. By listening to and acting on their views, BANG can continue to grow as an organisation that empowers young people, supports their development, and helps them build the skills, confidence, creativity, and resilience needed for the future.

# NEXT STEPS: SEND RESEARCH AND INCLUSIVE PROGRAMME DESIGN

The peer research highlighted a need for a deeper understanding of the experiences and support needs of young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND). While a small number of respondents identified as having SEND, the findings suggest that some young people may be uncertain about the support available to them or how to access inclusive opportunities.

To address this, BANG will undertake follow-up research focused specifically on SEND, working in partnership with schools, families, and specialist organisations.

This research will aim to better understand the barriers young people with additional needs face in accessing extracurricular activities, leadership opportunities, and skills development.

Insights from this follow-up study will inform the development of more inclusive programmes, including creative arts activities, outdoor learning, storytelling, games, and leadership opportunities designed to ensure that young people with SEND can participate fully and confidently.

By strengthening its understanding of SEND experiences and needs, BANG will build a more inclusive youth development model that ensures all young people have access to meaningful opportunities, support, and pathways for growth.