

5 Art Survey

Attitudes and Motivation

Students' attitudes, interests and liking for a subject have a strong bearing on their achievement. The *Art Survey* sought information from students about their curriculum preferences and their perceptions of their own achievement. The questions were the same for year 4 and year 8 students. The survey was administered to the students in an independent session (four students working individually on tasks supported by a teacher). The questions were read to year 4 students, and also to individual year 8 students who requested this help. Writing help was available if requested.

Visual Arts Surveys

The survey included one item which asked them to select three preferences from a list, 13 items which asked students to record a rating response by circling their choice, one item which asked them to tick boxes to indicate frequency of activities, and one which asked them to list preferred activities.

Students first were asked to select their three favourite school subjects from a list of 14 subjects. Among the year 4 students, physical education was the most popular subject, listed as first, second or third choice by 51 percent of year 4 students. Visual art came











second (41%), maths third (34%), science fourth (32%) and reading fifth (27%). Music rated seventh (23%), dance eighth (18%) and drama ninth (16%). With drama and dance added to the subject list used in 1999, the percentages in 2003 and 1999 are not directly comparable, but it is noteworthy that while physical education attracted about 50 percent support in both years, and science and maths were in the 30s both times, visual art has dropped in "top three" support from 80 percent of students to 41 percent of students. This largely may be accounted for by addition of two other art forms to the subject list, and by the term "art" being used in the subject list in 1999 but "visual art" in 2003. The sum of the percentages for all four art forms is nine lower than the sum for art and music in 1999, suggesting that the large decrease for visual art was not caused entirely by the addition of dance and drama.

In the corresponding results for year 8 students, physical education was first in popularity (61%), technology second (44%), visual art third (32%), drama fourth (25%), maths fifth (24%) and science sixth (21%). Dance rated seventh (16%) and music eighth equal (15%). The percentages choosing physical education, technology, mathematics and science have stayed almost the same as in 1999, but the percentage choosing "visual art" in 2003 is 24 lower than the percentage choosing "art" in 1999. On the other hand, the sum of the percentages for all four art forms in 2003 is nine higher than the sum for art and music in 1999. The drop for visual art has been more than equalled by the gain from adding drama and dance.

Students were asked an open question: What do you like doing most in art in your own time? Drawing was easily the most highly rated activity by both year 4 and year 8 students (59 and 69 percent of students, respectively), followed by painting (about 30 percent for both years).

Responses to the 13 rating items are presented in separate tables for year 4 and year 8 students, together with students' perceptions of the relative frequency of 10 different art making activities in school. The corresponding results from 1999 are shown alongside.

YEAR 4 ART SURVEY RESPONSES 2003 (1999)









									
1. How much do you like doing art at school?	76 (78)	20 (18)	4 (3)	0 (1)					
	<i>heaps</i>	<i>quite a lot</i>	<i>some</i>	<i>little</i>					
2. How much do you think you learn about art at school?	36 (37)	39 (43)	22 (17)	3 (3)					
3. How often does your class do really good things in art?	23 (22)	31 (38)	44 (39)□	2 (1)					
	<i>more</i>	<i>about the same</i>	<i>less</i>						
4. Would you like to do more art or less art at school?	73 (72)	22 (25)	5 (3)						
	<i>heaps</i>	<i>quite a lot</i>	<i>sometimes</i>	<i>never</i>					
5. How often do you do these things in art at school?									
drawing	32 (33)	30 (24)	38 (41)	0 (2)	making models	13 (9)	8 (8)	43 (43)	36 (40)□
painting	23 (19)	26 (24)	45 (50)	6 (7)	working with clay	13 (7)	6 (8)	42 (41)	39 (44)
printmaking	9 (10)	9 (9)	43 (41)	39 (40)	work with fabrics/weaving	9 (7)	15 (14)	40 (46)	36 (33)
collage	8 (9)	11 (13)	43 (46)	38 (32)	group activities	36 (35)	35 (35)	24 (24)	5 (6)
carving	6 (4)	3 (4)	16 (14)	75 (78)	computer graphics	17 (-)	19 (-)	37 (-)	27 (-)
	<i>heaps</i>	<i>quite a lot</i>	<i>sometimes</i>	<i>never</i>					
6. How often do you look at art and talk about art at school?	14 (12)	31 (33)	49 (49)	6 (6)					
7. How often do you learn new things in art in school?	27 (29)	37 (39)	35 (30)	1 (2)					
					<i>don't know</i>				
8. How good do you think you are at art?	46 (49)	39 (40)	5 (7)	2 (2)	8 (2)				
9. How good does your teacher think you are at art?	41 (46)	24 (25)	4 (5)	2 (1)	29 (23)				
10. How good does your mum or dad think you are at art?	66 (81)	16 (7)	2 (1)	1 (1)	15 (10)				
11. How much do you like doing art things in your own time – when you're not at school?	50 (57)	29 (26)	14 (12)	7 (5)					
	<i>heaps</i>	<i>quite a lot</i>	<i>sometimes</i>	<i>never</i>					
12. Do you do really good things in art in your own time – when you're not at school?	28 (32)	26 (26)	38 (35)	8 (7)					
	<i>yes</i>	<i>maybe</i>	<i>no</i>						
13. Do you want to keep learning about art when you grow up?	54 (56)	41 (38)	5 (6)						
14. Do you think you would make a good artist when you grow up?	34 (31)	52 (52)	14 (17)						

The year 4 results suggest that art remains a popular activity, both in school and out, with about three quarters of the students choosing the highest rating for their enjoyment of art at school and wanting more art at school. About half were similarly

positive about art activities in their own time and about continuing to learn art when they grew up. The most notable changes from the 1999 results were moderate increases in the percentages of students who said they didn't know how good they

were at art or how their teacher or parent viewed their ability at art, and a larger decline in the percentage of students who believed their parents were very positive about their ability in art.

YEAR 8 ART SURVEY RESPONSES 2003 (1999)

									
1. How much do you like doing art at school?	49 (55)	40 (37)	9 (5)	2 (3)					
	<i>heaps</i>	<i>quite a lot</i>	<i>some</i>	<i>little</i>					
2. How much do you think you learn about art at school?	13 (16)	48 (49)	34 (30)	5 (5)					
3. How often does your class do really good things in art?	8 (9)	31 (28)	56 (57)□	5 (6)					
	<i>more</i>	<i>about the same</i>	<i>less</i>						
4. Would you like to do more art or less art at school?	53 (60)	39 (35)	8 (5)						
	<i>heaps</i>	<i>quite a lot</i>	<i>sometimes</i>	<i>never</i>					
5. How often do you do these things in art at school?									
drawing	27 (26)	34 (35)	37 (37)	2 (2)	making models	5 (7)	7 (10)	48 (45)	40 (38)□
painting	13 (13)	27 (30)	52 (50)	8 (7)	working with clay	7 (8)	13 (15)	40 (40)	40 (37)
printmaking	3 (5)	11 (11)	44 (50)	42 (34)	work with fabrics/weaving	7 (6)	17 (16)	40 (42)	36 (36)
collage	2 (4)	7 (10)	51 (53)	40 (33)	group activities	23 (24)	30 (27)	32 (33)	15 (16)
carving	2 (4)	5 (5)	28 (26)	65 (65)	computer graphics	10 (-)	19 (-)	30 (-)	41 (-)
	<i>heaps</i>	<i>quite a lot</i>	<i>sometimes</i>	<i>never</i>					
6. How often do you look at art and talk about art at school?	5 (7)	20 (23)	66 (58)	9 (12)					
7. How often do you learn new things in art in school?	10 (9)	36 (42)	50 (45)	4 (4)					
					<i>don't know</i>				
8. How good do you think you are at art?	17 (19)	52 (52)	19 (16)	5 (6)	7 (7)				
9. How good does your teacher think you are at art?	15 (17)	33 (28)	12 (7)	1 (3)	39 (45)				
10. How good does your mum or dad think you are at art?	42 (43)	30 (26)	7 (4)	1 (1)	20 (26)				
11. How much do you like doing art things in your own time – when you're not at school?	39 (37)	31 (37)	20 (18)	10 (8)					
	<i>heaps</i>	<i>quite a lot</i>	<i>sometimes</i>	<i>never</i>					
12. Do you do really good things in art in your own time – when you're not at school?	18 (16)	25 (27)	45 (46)	12 (11)					
	<i>yes</i>	<i>maybe</i>	<i>no</i>						
13. Do you want to keep learning about art when you grow up?	37 (39)	53 (51)	10 (10)						
14. Do you think you would make a good artist when you grow up?	11 (10)	52 (53)	37 (37)						

At year 8 level, the 2003 results are similar to those for 1999. There appear to be small declines in the popularity of art at school and in the desire for additional art at school, but about 50 percent still give high ratings on both issues (higher than for most

subjects in other NEMP surveys at year 8 level). Computer graphics was included in the survey for the first time this year: 29 percent of students reported using this technique in art at school “heaps” or “quite a lot” (more than printmaking, collage, carving,

model making, clay and fabrics, with which experience was quite limited). Only 25 percent of year 8 students reported looking at or talking about art at school more than “sometimes”, 5 percent fewer than in 1999.