



PEER POWER

2017

ADOLESCENTOLOGY SURVEY RESULTS

THEME: IDENTITY AND SELF-WORTH

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METHOD:

- Responses were collected across 38 schools (7 State schools and 31 Private schools) from a sample of the Peer Power seminars in 2017.
- A total of 4382 students completed at least one of the questions below, with 4151 completing all 7 questions. Year 10s and Year 8s were under-represented in the sample, and girls were over-represented, especially in Years 11 and 12. The students who completed all items were distributed as follows:

	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11	Year 12	Total
Female	166	437	102	760	695	2160
Male	197	443	134	613	348	1735

- Students were asked to respond to the following questions, all using a 5 point scale: strongly disagree; disagree; neutral; agree; strongly agree.

1. I feel loved and accepted by family and friends
2. I feel lonely and insecure when on my own (5 point scale as above)
3. I see myself as a person of worth (not money) (5 point scale as above)
4. What I choose to think and do is greatly determined by what others think of me (5 point scale as above)
5. Who I am remains constant regardless of the situation I am in (5 point scale as above)
6. I act like a different person around different people in my life (5 point scale as above)
7. I feel a deep sense of happiness with who I am (5 point scale as above)

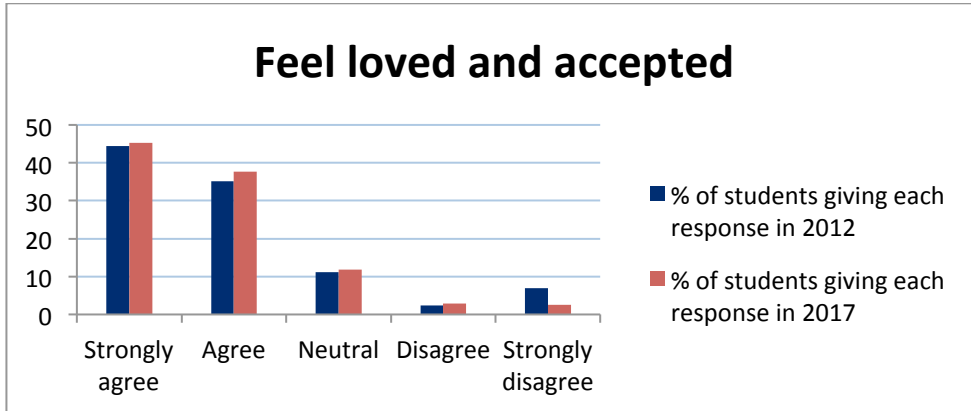
- Students' responses to these questions are reported below, together with analyses by year level and gender.
- Wherever possible, 2017 responses are compared with responses to the same questions provided by 4357 students in 2012. Differences between these samples can not necessarily be attributed to changes over time, as the samples were different. In 2012, 76% were from Private schools, 53% were female, and 50% were from Years 11-12. In 2017, 87% were from Private schools, 56% were female and 62% were from Years 11-12.
- It should be noted that in 2017, all of the State School responses were from Years 11 and 12. This makes comparisons by year level and type of school difficult to interpret in isolation.

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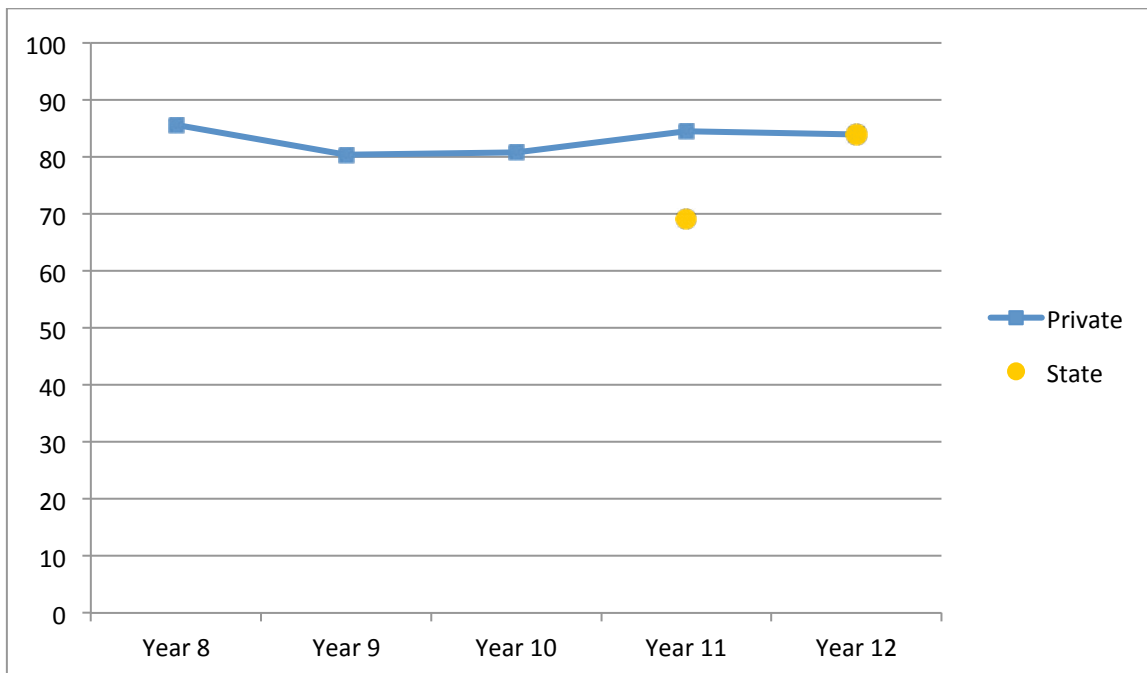


1. I feel loved and accepted by family and friends

Students were asked to rate whether they felt loved and accepted by family and friends, using a 5-point scale ranging from strongly disagree to strongly agree.

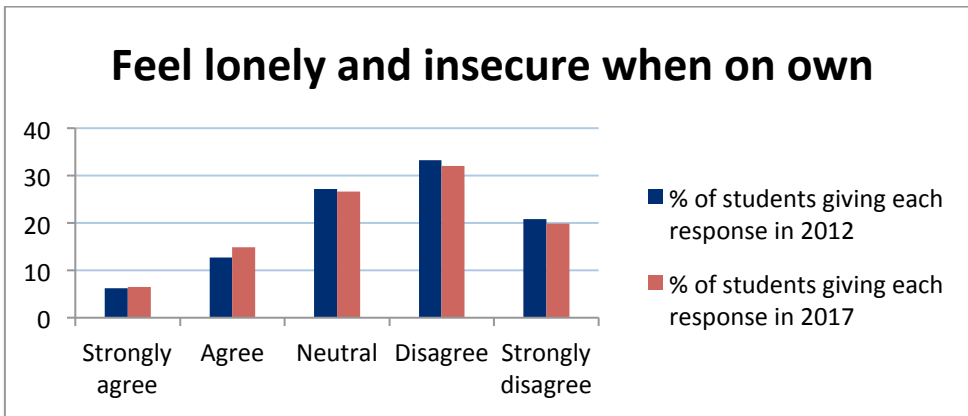


Most students (83%) agreed (including both agreed and strongly agreed responses) that they felt loved and accepted by family and friends. The percentage had increased slightly since 2012, when 80% agreed. Year level and type of school both had an impact on responses. Responses by year level and type of school are shown below for the 2017 responses. Year 9 and 10 students were the least likely to feel loved and accepted than other students. State School were similar to Private School students in Year 12. The lower scores among State School students in Year 11 should be interpreted with caution due to the low numbers of State School students in the sample.

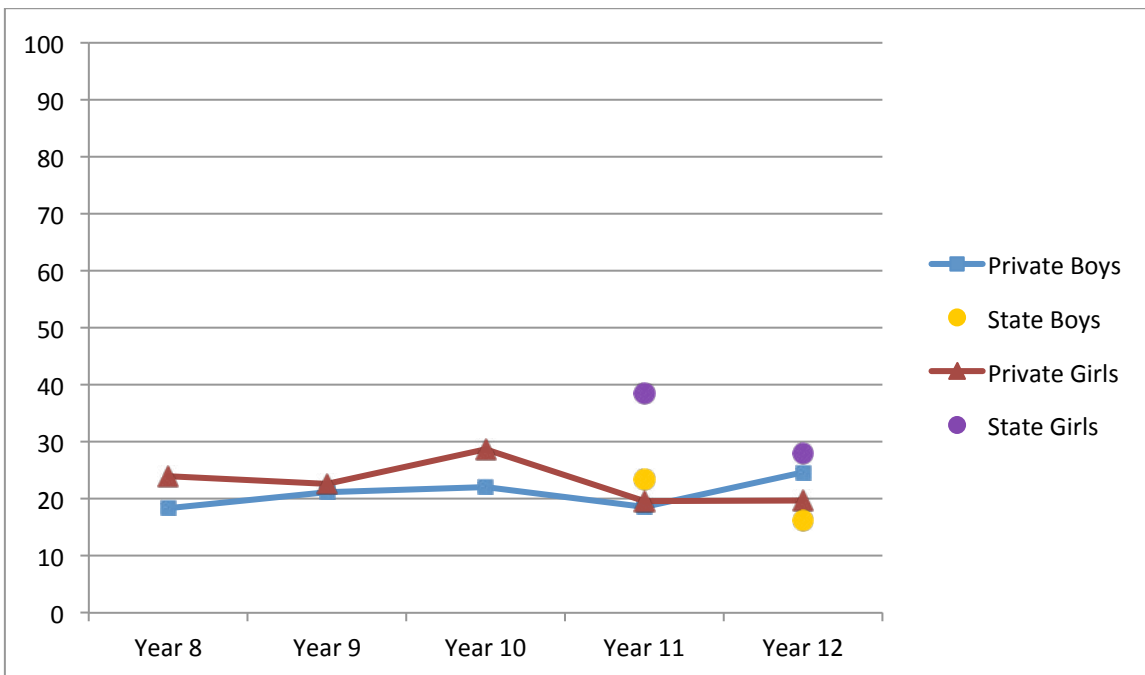


2. I feel lonely and insecure when on my own

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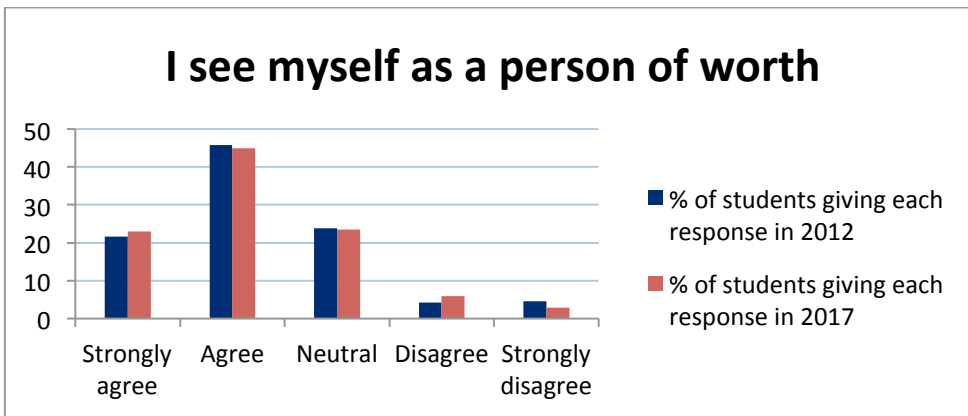
Students were asked to indicate their agreement with this statement on a 5-point scale from 1=Strongly Disagree to 5=Strongly Agree. In 2017, 21% of students agreed or strongly agreed with the statement. Most students (52%) disagreed. In 2012, 19% of students agreed and 54% disagreed. Gender had the largest influence on these responses. Girls were more likely to agree that they felt lonely and secure on their own than boys.



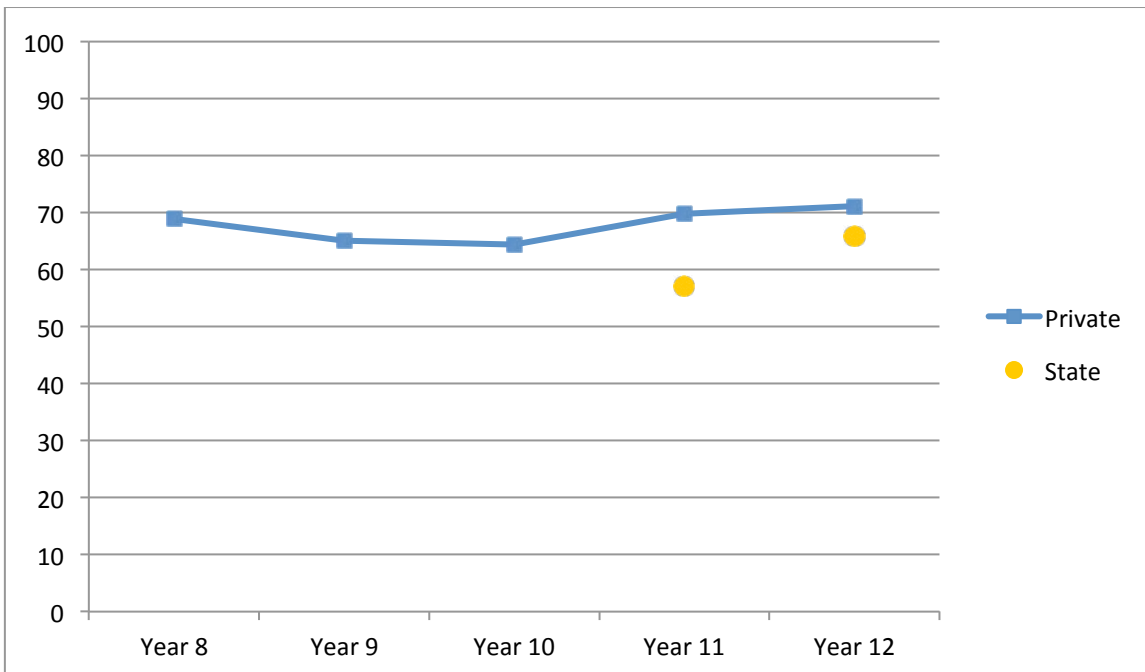
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3. I see myself as a person of worth



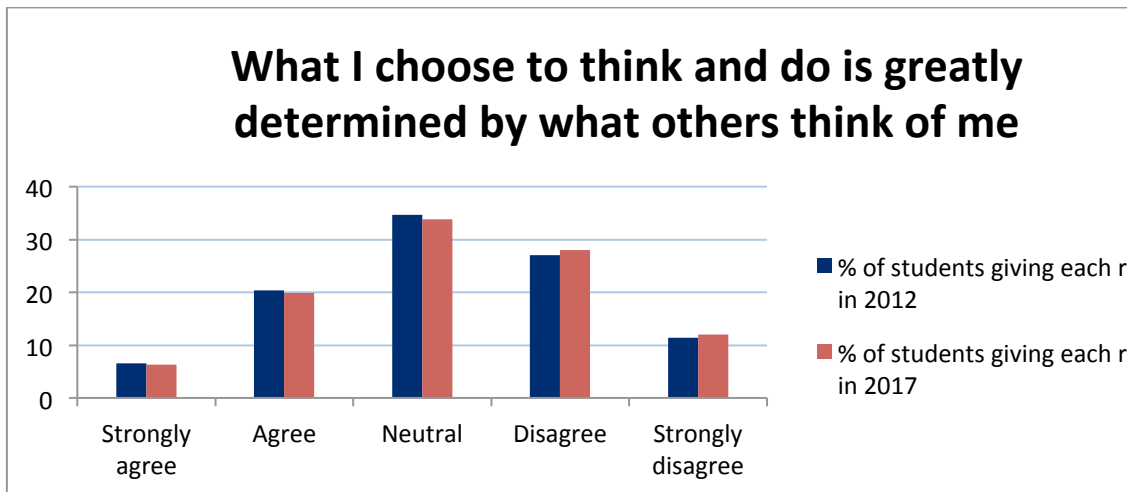
Students were asked to indicate their agreement with this statement on a 5-point scale from 1=Strongly Disagree to 5=Strongly Agree. In 2017, 68% of students agreed or strongly agreed with the statement. In 2012, 67% of students agreed. Year level and type of school influenced responses to this statement, with self-worth decreasing in Years 9 and 10 and then increasing in Years 11 and 12.



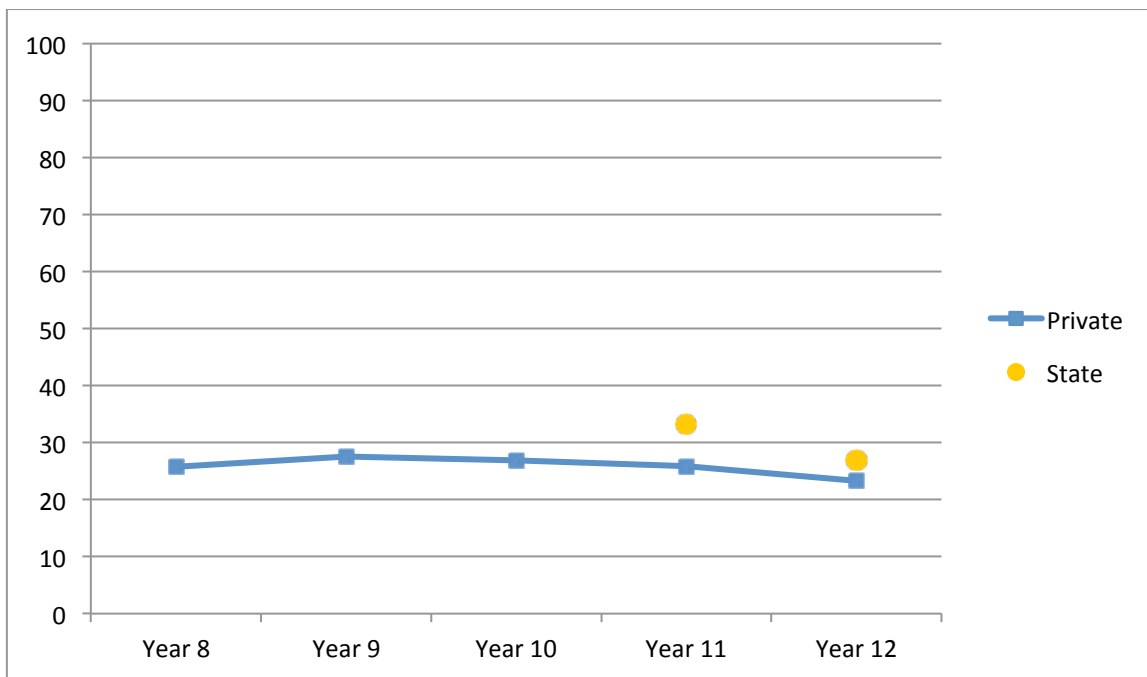
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4. What I choose to think and do is greatly determined by what others think of me



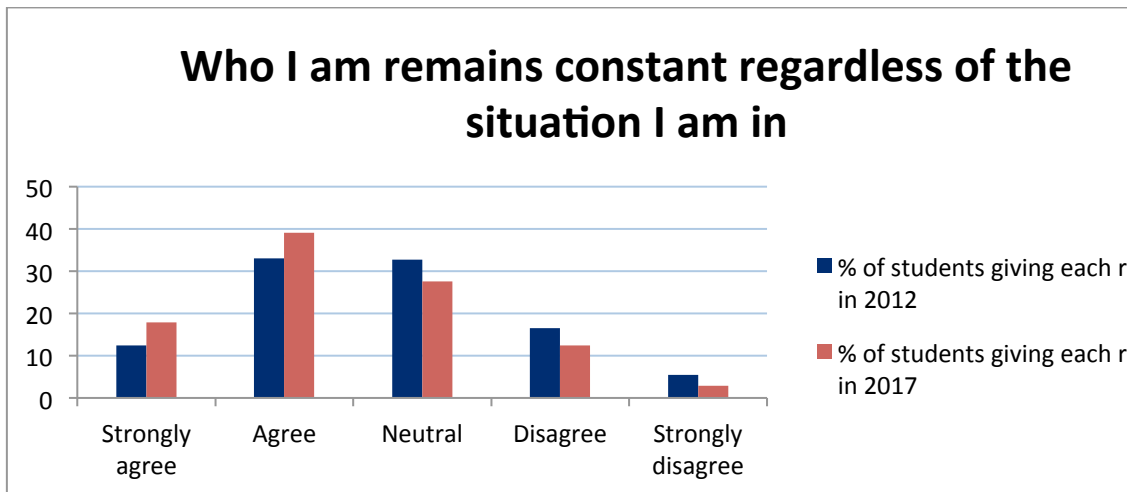
Students were asked to indicate their agreement with this statement on a 5-point scale from 1=Strongly Disagree to 5=Strongly Agree. In 2017, 26% of students agreed or strongly agreed with the statement (40% disagreed). In 2012, 27% of students agreed (38% disagreed). None of the demographic factors influenced responses to this statement.



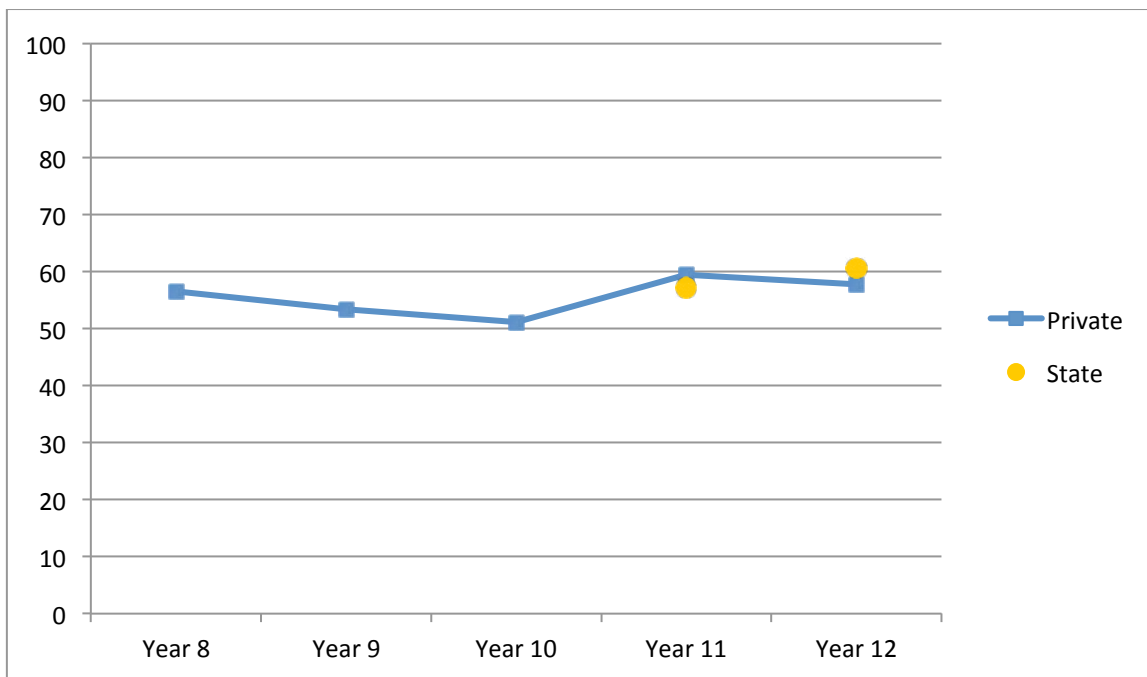
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5. Who I am remains constant regardless of the situation I am in



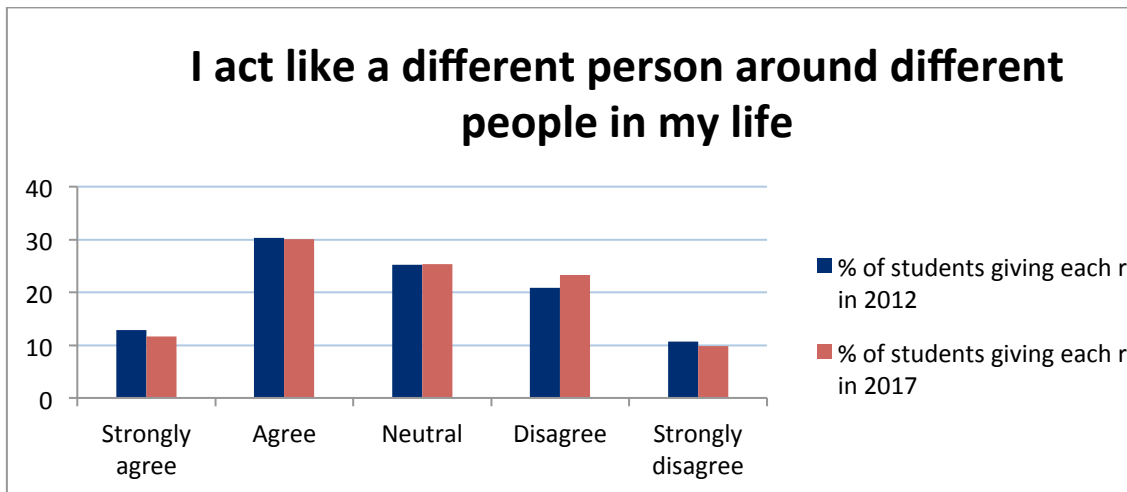
Students were asked to indicate their agreement with this statement on a 5-point scale from 1=Strongly Disagree to 5=Strongly Agree. In 2017, 57% of students agreed or strongly agreed with the statement. In 2012, 45% of students agreed. None of the demographic factors significantly influenced responses to this statement.



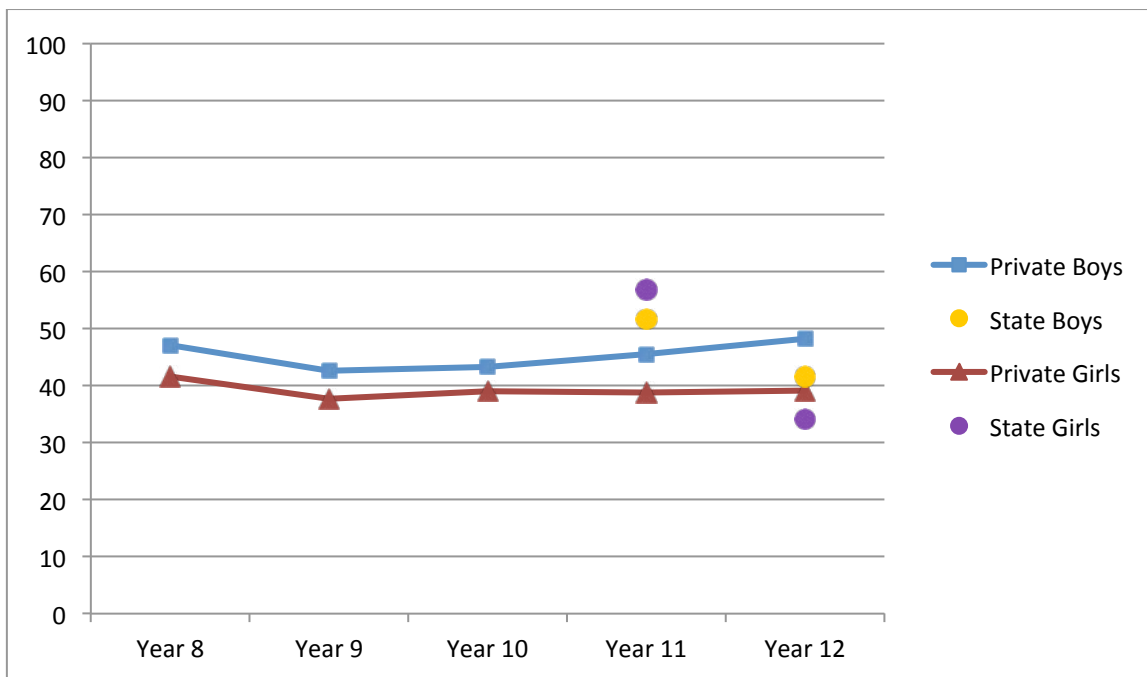
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6. I act like a different person around different people in my life



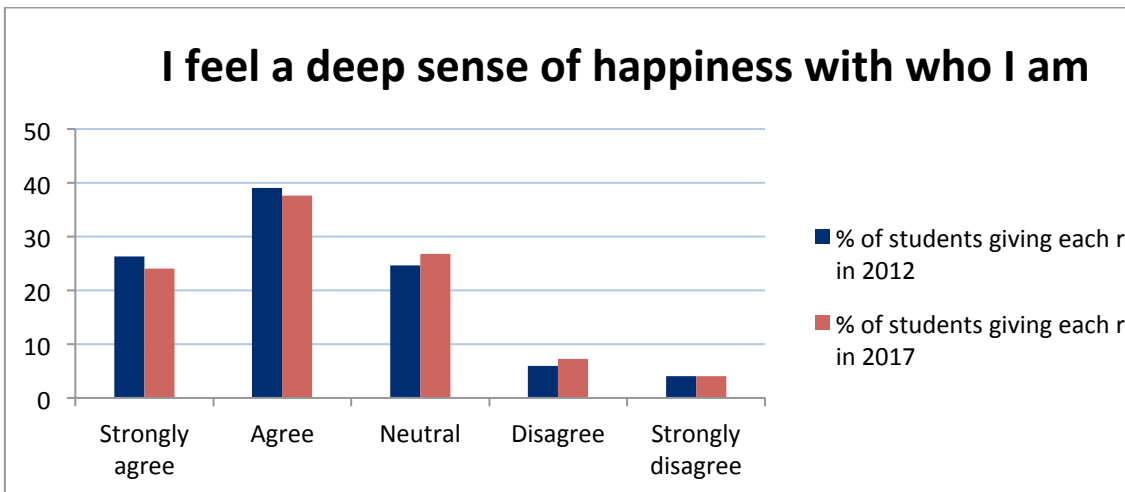
Students were asked to indicate their agreement with this statement on a 5-point scale from 1=Strongly Disagree to 5=Strongly Agree. In 2017, 42% of students agreed or strongly agreed with the statement (33% disagreed). In 2012, 43% of students agreed (32% disagreed). Year level, gender and type of school all influenced responses to this statement. Mostly, boys were more likely to agree than girls.



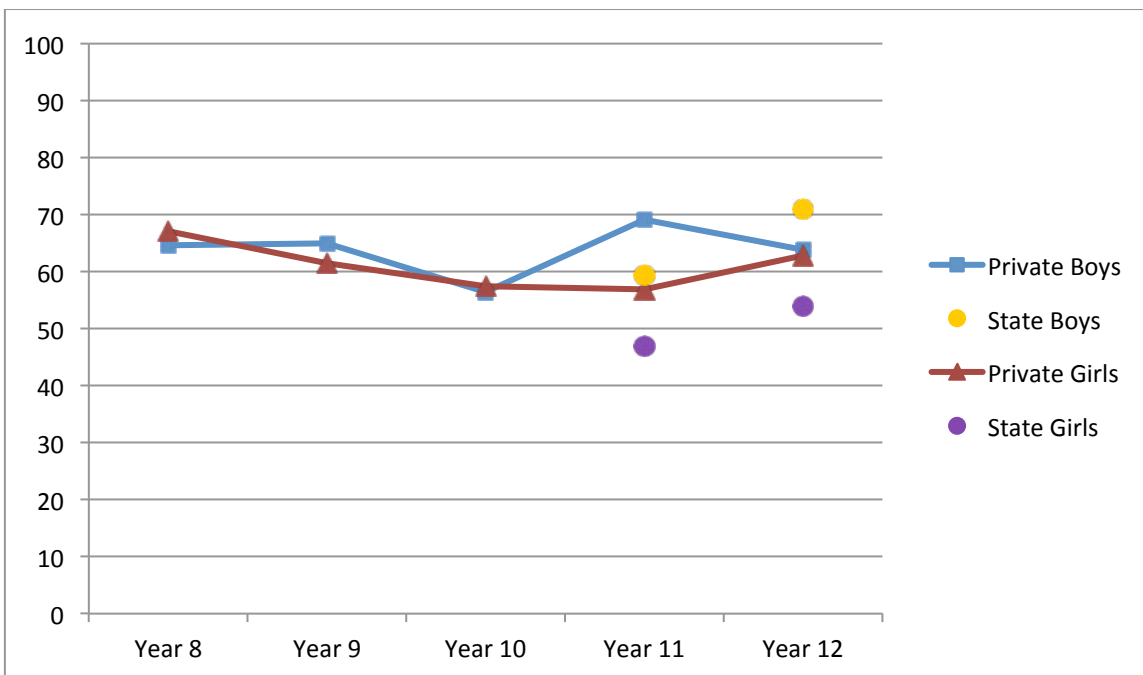
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7. I feel a deep sense of happiness with who I am



Students were asked to indicate their agreement with this statement on a 5-point scale from 1=Strongly Disagree to 5=Strongly Agree. In 2017, 62% of students agreed or strongly agreed with the statement. In 2012, 65% of students agreed. Year level, gender and type of school all influenced responses to this statement.



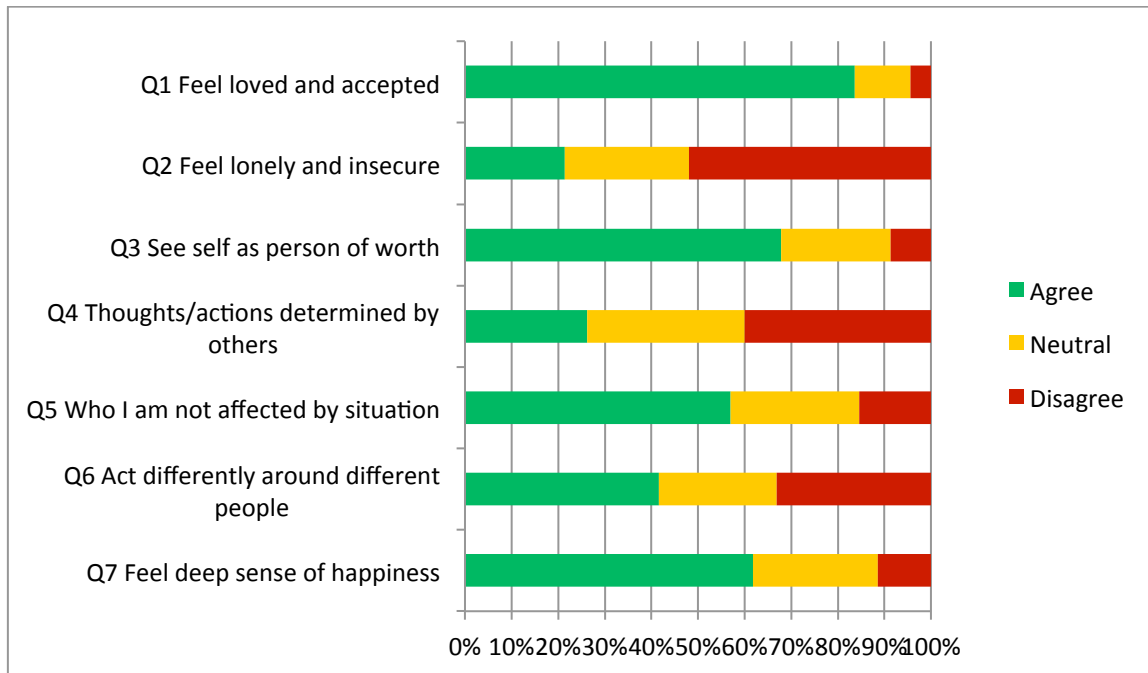
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SUMMARY OF RESPONSES

Items 1-7 were all answered using a 5-point scale from strongly disagree to strongly agree.

Responses to these 7 items are compared below. The greatest agreement was given to “I feel loved and accepted by family and friends” (83%). The greatest disagreement was with the statement “I feel lonely and insecure when on my own” (52%).



- Most students (over **80%**) reported that they felt loved and accepted by family and friends.
- Most students (over **60%**) saw themselves as a person of worth.
- Most students (over **60%**) felt a deep sense of happiness with “who I am”.
- A minority of students (around **20%**) reported feeling lonely and insecure when on their own.
- A minority of students (under **30%**) reported that what they choose to do and think is greatly determined by what others think of them.
- Just over half agree that who they are remains constant regardless of the situation, while just under half feel that they act like a different person around different people.

There were moderate levels of association between items 1, 3 and 7 (I feel loved and accepted; I see myself as a person of worth; and I feel a deep sense of happiness with who I am). Item 5 (Who I am is not affected by the situation I am in) was also weakly related to this set of items.

There was a weak relationship between items 2, 4 and 6 (I feel lonely and insecure when on my own; What I choose to think and do is greatly determined by what others think of me; I act like a different person around different people in my life).

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