

Senedd Cymru | Welsh Parliament

Bil arfaethedig – Bil Addysg Awyr Agored (Cymru) | Proposed Outdoor Education (Wales) Bill

Ymateb gan Matthew Rees, Community Development Worker, | Evidence from Matthew Rees, Community Development Worker,

Are you (your organisation) currently a provider of outdoor education?: Yes

Your opinion

How important is outdoor education to children and young people's overall education and development?

Very important

What are the main benefits to children and young people from having a residential outdoor education experience?

Many of the children and young people I work with are unlikely to have anything close to a genuine, meaningful experience of the outdoors and the activities available. Even a small charge will be a huge barrier to access.

These experiences are lifelong and talked about in my community by parent/carers via their experiences from their youth too.

Should children and young people have a guaranteed opportunity to participate in a residential outdoor education experience, at some stage during their school years, if they wish to?

Yes

Should an opportunity to participate in a residential outdoor education experience, at some stage during their school years, be free of charge on one occasion to pupils?

Yes

What are the main barriers which you believe currently exist to children and young people accessing residential outdoor education experiences?

Financial constraints; Parental anxiety / uncertainty; Child anxiety / uncertainty;

Equality Considerations: Could the proposed Bill have any positive impacts on some children and young people in particular? If so, who and why?

Equality Considerations: Could the proposed Bill have any negative impacts on some children and young people in particular. If so, who and why? What could this Bill do to mitigate any negative impacts?

This programme should be delivered not just by schools, but opened up to local authority Play and Youth Services too. There is a danger that those young people not in a school based education could miss out (ie, Home Education, Alternative Education)

What age do you believe is most suitable for children and young people to be offered an opportunity to undertake a residential outdoor education experience?

Year 6 (age 10-11)

Is four nights/five days the best length for a residential outdoor experience?

No

Please explain your answer and highlight any possible implications from having a standard approach of four night/five day experiences (whether positive or negative).

In my experience this may be too long for Year 6 pupils. A long weekend (3 nights) could be more suitable. Longer breaks would suit older children and young people.

Do you agree there is a need for legislation to ensure all children and young people are given an opportunity to access a residential outdoor education experience, at some stage during their school years?

Strongly disagree

Is there anything else you would like to say about this proposal?
