

Senedd Cymru | Welsh Parliament

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

Ymateb gan Sport Wales, | Evidence from Sport Wales,

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

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## Your opinion

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

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Very important

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

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There are significant benefits to children and young people being exposed to outdoor educational experience. The Outdoor Education Adviser's Panel (OEAP) for example establish 10 clear aspects;

- **Enjoyment:** Young people enjoy participating in outdoor activities and adopt a positive attitude to challenge, learning and adventure.
- **Confidence and character:** Young people are developing personal confidence and character through taking on challenges and achieving success.
- **Health and Well-being:** Young people are learning to appreciate the benefits of physical fitness and the lifelong value of participation in healthy active leisure activities.
- **Social and emotional awareness:** Young people are developing their self-awareness and social skills, and their appreciation of the contributions and achievements of themselves and of others.
- **Environmental awareness:** Young people are becoming alive to the natural environment and understand the importance of conservation and sustainable development.
- **Activity skills:** Young people are acquiring and developing a range of psychomotor skills in support of their participation in outdoor pursuits, recreation and exploration.
- **Personal qualities:** Young people are demonstrating increased initiative, self-reliance, responsibility, perseverance, tenacity and commitment.
- **Skills for life:** Young people are developing and extending their key skills of communication, problem-solving, leadership and teamwork.
- **Increased motivation and appetite for learning:** Young people are displaying an increased motivation and appetite for learning that is contributing to raised levels of attainment and progress in other aspects of their development.
- **Broadened horizons:** Young people are broadening their horizons and becoming open to a wider range of employment opportunities and life chances, life choices and lifestyles.

Each of these, and more would make a valid case for the benefits of outdoor experiences. Certainly, in line with the Vision for Sport in Wales, we at Sport Wales, enjoyment, confidence and well-being are key components.

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?

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Don't know

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?

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Yes

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

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Financial constraints; Will teachers be upskilled to transfer/adapt some of these activities back into school? Teacher confidence.;

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?

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?

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

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Don't know

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

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?

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Neither agree nor disagree

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

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