

Senedd Cymru | Welsh Parliament

[Bil arfaethedig – Bil Addysg Awyr Agored \(Cymru\)](#) | [Proposed Outdoor Education \(Wales\) Bill](#)

Ymateb gan University of Reading, | Evidence from University of Reading,

Are you (your organisation) currently a provider of outdoor education?: No

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?

New outdoor pursuit experiences

Learning to survive outside

Learning to enjoy being outside

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;Paternal 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?

Children who are not taken on visits, due to lack of knowledge from parents/carers, lack of finances to support such visits or lack of confidence of parents/carers regarding such things.

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?

Some children struggle to be away from home and get homesick. To mitigate this one needs more understanding of this and be more supportive and in loco parentis than at school.

Some children might not feel confident to do all the outdoor activities and staff need to be sensitive to the difference between those children and those who simply need a little encouragement.

I am not sure the Bill could mitigate the impact other than financially supporting the schools so enough adults are taken to support the children.

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).

I think three nights is sufficient for some children. You are having to cater for so many types that it is better to do less and ensure all are happy rather than more and end up with some who go away from the experience unhappy.

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?

Neither agree nor disagree

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

I am saddened that you are not first of all, legislating for all children to have access to a quality outdoor teaching and learning environment at school for all ages. This would be a much more effective way of ensuring children gain from the experience of working and playing outside and learn about the natural world and therefore learn to care for it. This would enable children to be and become healthy in mind and body. It would involve training of all staff in learning about outdoor learning, which I hasten to add has zero to do with Forest School, which is very expensive, exclusive and detrimental to good quality outdoor teaching and learning.

May I suggest looking at the history of nursery education in England, which started life in Deptford in 1914, entitled the open air nursery school. Education happened outside and buildings were shelters to support the education outside.

Very happy to say more about this!

12:00:00 AM