

Senedd Cymru | Welsh Parliament

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

Ymateb gan Thomas Burrett | Evidence from Thomas Burrett

In what capacity are you responding: Parent / Carer

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?

top three benefits:

Independence, resilience, lifelong learning experiences

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;Disabilities;Patental 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?

With current financial pressures, fewer pupils are able to participate in outdoor residential experiences to fulfil the curricular needs. The bill will impact not only young people positively by allowing them the opportunity to participate in life changing experiences that will set foundations for becoming resilient well-rounded contributors to society, but for their family members like myself, who see the residual effects on their children from years of lock-down and conditioning to be risk aware, creating a worry about the longer term affects such as anxiety for our children.

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?

Working in the industry and as a parent, I cannot foresee any negative impacts that a well structured outdoor adventurous residential can have on young people.

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?

Yes

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

Visits shorter than this do not accommodate for the transition in independence, allowing pupils the time to develop through traditional full days of adventurous activity programming, where the pupil is encouraged to develop their resilience, personal organisational skills and a sense of dynamic risk assessment whilst being conscious of supporting or accepting support from fellow teammates.

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?

Agree

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

It is a fantastic, forward thinking initiative that I feel will help not only support schools to deliver their curricular targets, but also give pupils the level platform to be equal in their given experiences regardless of personal background/demographic. If successful I think that a future developmental programme from early years through the educational system will allow progression in independence as well as skill, whilst reducing health referrals for pupils who have suffered long term affects as a result of the pandemic or isolation due to lock-downs.