

POE141 YHA (England and Wales)

Senedd Cymru | Welsh Parliament

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

Ymateb gan YHA (England and Wales), | Evidence from YHA (England and Wales),

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?

- health and wellbeing positive outcomes
- developing skills for work and life
- to better protect outdoors, nature and heritage

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; capacity and resources at schools to support delivery;

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

Huge positive impacts;

- Provide equitable opportunities for all young people to take part
- Improved health and wellbeing outcomes
- Increased skills and development to support green economy
- Improve teacher health and wellbeing

- Create generation that will act as custodians of nature and environment
- Celebrate Wales natural landscapes and heritage for young people in Wales to enjoy; not just the reserve of visitors or those that can afford it.
- Develop sense of Cynefin, linked to new schools curriculum and enrich learning

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?

Not all young people will want to take part; but participation should be encouraged but not forced.

A wide range of activities (from high level, low level, other less physically active but still warranting an outdoor experience; walks; creative experiences) should be available to complement each other and mitigate any negative impacts.

All should mean all; not a tiered approach that could mean young people not meeting criteria to take part. This Bill is designed to mitigate this.

Outdoor activity and residential providers are well skilled and experienced to provide inclusive experiences for a wide range of young people with a variety of life experiences and challenges.

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?

Older (please state below)

difficult to answer this one as would want outdoor experiences to be part of a continuum of experiences for young people, not just a one off. Week residential at some stage in that continuum along with day trips / other experiences etc

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

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).

Selected Dont know as the duration depends on age group and desired outcomes for the young people going. Some would require shorter stays whereas other groups would benefit from a four/five night. Would be great to have the option to use the allocation flexibly to perhaps offer a range of experiences as part of longer term experiences, not just a one off.

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 agree

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

YHA are very supportive of this proposal and look forward to playing a key role in partnership with the education and outdoor sector in supporting the delivery at our sites across Wales.