

## OE-008 - RYG Outdoor Education Centre

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Senedd Cymru | Welsh Parliament

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

Ymateb gan RYG Outdoor Education Centre | Evidence from RYG Outdoor Education Centre

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

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# Proposed Outdoor Education (Wales) Bill

## Consultation: Response form

**Name:** Sara Jones

**Are you submitting this response in a professional or personal capacity?:**

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Professional capacity (including on behalf of an organisation)</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Personal capacity</b>
<p>Are you responding on behalf of an organisation?</p> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<p>Age:</p> <input type="checkbox"/> I am under 13 years old <input type="checkbox"/> I am aged 13 to 17 <input type="checkbox"/> I am aged 18 or over and wish my contribution to be anonymised <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> I am aged 18 or over and happy for my name to be published with my contribution
<p>Are you (your organisation) currently a provider of outdoor education?</p> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<p>In what capacity are you responding?</p> <input type="checkbox"/> Child / Young person <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Parent / Carer <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other

If professional, or a provider of outdoor education, your role and the name of organisation for which you are responding:

RYG Outdoor Education Centre Ltd. Centre Manager/owner

## Consultation questions

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

- Very important
- Quite important
- Don't know
- Not very important
- Not at all important

2. What are the main benefits to children and young people from having a residential outdoor education experience? Please list your top three benefits:

**Ability to undertake challenge** (have a go/take a risk) that can be reapplied in the classroom and life in general. We have too many children that are too scared to try in case they fail.

**Independence** - confidence, self-esteem

**A link to the natural environment** - Health and wellbeing

3. 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
- No
- Don't know

4. 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
- No
- Don't know

5. What are the main barriers which you believe currently exist to children and young people accessing residential outdoor education experiences? (please tick all that apply)

- Financial constraints
- Health reasons
- Disabilities
- Additional Learning Needs
- Parental anxiety/uncertainty

- Child anxiety/uncertainty
- Other (Please state) **Lack of value/understanding of the benefits**
- None

6. Equalities considerations:

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

**Yes, definitely**

**1. for those families who are financially unable to prioritise these experiences for their children in or out of school.**

**2. For those parents, who for health and medical reasons are unlikely to participate in these kinds of experiences as a family**

**3. For families who do not place interest in these kinds of experiences but whose children may benefit greatly and find an outlet, a passion, a career.**

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?

No, as long as their still remains a choice of whether to participate and encourage and support is given to children to undertake challenge at an appropriate level.

7. 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) **Good as a transition to secondary school and becoming more independent. Confidence boost, More likely to take up opportunities in the future.**
- Younger (please state)
- Older (please state) **Good as a bonding experience for a newly formed group taking on new challenges or developing finer skills, although sometimes difficult if no experience before.**
- Not at any age

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

- Yes
- No
- 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).

- **Dependent upon travelling time. If Monday and Friday are taken up with travelling then it is only really three days of outdoor experiences. A week is a good amount of time for young people to really develop relationships, self-reliance skills and experience a range of outdoor experiences. 1 or two nights is better than nothing but children can coast through without really having to develop too many new skills.**

9. 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
- Agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree

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

I believe this is a very forward-thinking proposal. One based on the idea of prevention not cure. To equip our young people with as many skills as possible through our education system and also connect them to their natural environment. To invite our young people to take up an active pursuit that may become a passion, a career and offer benefits of health, wellbeing and social interaction as a counter but also a support to academic study would bring immeasurable positives. It is sometime hard to understand the benefits of such an experience from the outside. Many of the positives are by nature hard to measure: confidence, self-esteem, independence, self-reliance, resilience, ability to take on challenge yet these are such important skills. I also see this debate from several sides, as a teacher leading pupils on such a trip, as a parent waving my own children off. Now as a provider of outdoor education I have the experience of seeing these skills develop every week in the children that visit our centre and I wish anyone that was doubtful could see what I see and see the difference it makes. I also see disparity between what some children are able to access from different parts of the UK and what is valued in Education. It is heart-breaking to me that pupils travel from all over the UK to benefit from these experiences and the stunning landscapes in Wales, yet Welsh children are less able to benefit from what is on their own doorstep.