

OE-027 - Pembrokeshire Coast NPA

Senedd Cymru | Welsh Parliament

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

Ymateb gan Pembrokeshire Coast NPA | Evidence from Pembrokeshire Coast NPA

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

Proposed Outdoor Education (Wales) Bill

Consultation: Response form

Name: Bryony Rees

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

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Professional capacity (including on behalf of an organisation)	<input type="checkbox"/> Personal capacity
<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 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:

Pembrokeshire Outdoor School Co-ordinator, Pembrokeshire Outdoor Schools (PODS)

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:

The bill will bring around many benefits, the greatest impact being on the development of a child and young person. The development of an individual's; emotional and physical wellbeing, physical skills and abilities, knowledge, and personal and social skills.

Spending time immersed in outdoor environments will help a young person develop a sense of place and belonging for ones 'Cynefin' and in turn that young person is more likely to form a relationship with nature and all that it inhabits.

Stimulating children's curiosity and inquiring minds, by enriching the teaching and learning through real life experiences, which supports and compliments the New Curriculum for Wales.

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) Variations of uptake from schools and staffing
- 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?

There are many positives to the proposed Outdoor Education (Wales) bill. First and foremost, it ensures that all children and young people in Wales are able to access these provision and have the same equal opportunities. There are currently disparities amongst and amidst regions, with those disadvantaged less likely able to access these opportunities.

A consistent approach to ensuring experiences for all, will support the new curriculums vision of a skilled, resilient students. The current cohort of students will be integral in building a competent future workforce, particularly in the tourism and emerging adventure sectors, both of which form a big part of the Welsh economy.

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?

Outdoor learning day experiences are integral for many children, and it is vital that these are not impacted, and funding still be available for these experiences, which are often more accessible and feasible for schools. In many schools' opportunities that can occur within the school day happen more regularly and are key to the school's curriculum, by offering practical accessible activities and experiences. These local experiences are as important for students to explore their own localities and counties to have an understanding of their own 'Cynefin' before venturing further

afield. Due to their nature, these kinds of activities are often lower in carbon emissions, supporting the Net Zero Wales Target.

To mitigate these impacts, the bill needs to consider where these experiences are undertaken and if there are opportunities to undertake them without extensive travel, not only focusing on where there is existing capacity, but with a view to supporting local providers.

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)
- Younger (please state)
- Older (please state)
- 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).

For some children this may be too long. There must be flexibility built into the offer to accommodate the needs of all children. Some may not be able to manage a longer period, and for those individuals/groups there needs to be a more tailored provision, perhaps including day visits or supported overnight stays.

The duration of the residential should also take account of the needs and costs of providing teachers and support staff in relation to each trip.

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?

Outdoor Adventure can be an awe-inspiring, sometimes thrilling experience, but it is also a brilliant learning opportunity. Experiences can instigate discussion and learning in relation to the environment, nature, culture, heritage, sustainability amongst many other themes. The landscape and environment give plentiful opportunities to learn about history, whilst also providing stimuli to discuss the future for our young people. After all, they are the future generations who will be responsible for managing and mitigating negative impacts on these landscapes and climates.

It will also be important that outdoor adventure providers can gain access to accreditation such as Learning Outside Classroom Quality badge so that it is universally used and recognised in Wales ensuring quality, impactful, educational adventure experiences for our young people of Wales. At the moment, this quality badge isn't used by all providers and accessing the accreditation is always an easy process, particularly for smaller providers.