

Senedd Cymru | Welsh Parliament

Bil arfaethedig – Bil Addysg Awyr Agored (Cymru) - Ymgynghoriad ar gyfer plant a phobl ifanc |
Proposed Outdoor Education (Wales) Bill – Children and young person’s consultation

Ymateb gan Tom Crawford, Head of Learning and Community Engagement, | Evidence from Tom Crawford, Head of Learning and Community Engagement,

Capacity of response:

Your opinion

What are the main good things for children about having an overnight outdoor education visit?

From my work volunteering with the Duke of Edinburgh scheme and other outdoor pursuits providers you clearly see the mental and physical health benefits of young people connecting with nature whether that is a green space or blue space. Post pandemic more and more young people have missed out on the opportunities and benefits of connecting with nature, away from screens.

What gets in the way of children taking part in overnight outdoor education visits?

Cost; Health or disability; Language barriers; Friends not going; Children feeling anxious;

How can people make sure children have the best possible time at overnight outdoor education visits?

Ensure that there is time built in to connect with nature and be aware of their surroundings. Every minute doesn't need to be filled with physical activities but have opportunities to sit and talk about how they feel in the natural environment they are in.

On a scale of 1 to 10, how important is it for all children have the chance to do a free overnight outdoor education visits at some time?

10

What is the best age or year to go

KS3 Old enough to engage with the environment to have already studied key aspects of ecology and how humans interact with the natural world and our impact on it.

How long should the trip be for?

3 nights to allow 2 whole days in the environment with travel either side.

Which groups of children would get the most out of taking part in an overnight outdoor education visit, and why?

Those from areas of deprivation may never get the chance to stay overnight.

Should it be a law that children can go on at least one free overnight outdoor education visit?

Yes

Please tell us any other ideas that should be in the new law

Have opportunities for the children to learn about how we are inextricably linked to the environment around us and how all our actions can have a positive or negative impact on the health of the green and blue spaces around us. Feeding into one of the 4 purposes of the curriculum for Wales by creating ethical and informed citizens. I would go further to ensure that within this opportunity students get to do a mixture of land based and water based activities and a conservation session giving them a deeper understanding of their impact on the natural world. This could be a beach clean, some conservation work, learning about ocean literacy or volunteer work.