

POE67 Ysgol Uwchradd Tywyn - Gwynedd,

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 Ysgol Uwchradd Tywyn - Gwynedd, | Evidence from Ysgol Uwchradd Tywyn - Gwynedd,

Capacity of response: Organisation currently providing outdoor education

Your opinion

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

It allows them to push themselves out of their comfort zone physically, mentally and socially. It takes them away from their home comforts and allows them to have a sense of freedom and responsibility. Pupils can apply skills learnt during their school experiences (communication, organisation, team work, decision making, controlling their emotions, self awareness and self esteem) and input them into real life experiences. Experiences that benefit them greatly later on in life. Residential opportunities allow pupils to overcome fears and open up different opportunities that they never thought were capable of or available to them.

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

Cost; Health or disability; Parents worrying; Children feeling anxious; Friends not going; Being young carers; Language barriers;

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

You need well trained and professional adults that are prepared to communicate and ensure that all pupils have a valuable and enjoyable time. Teaching staff need to have close relationships with their pupils to accommodate their emotional needs as they are away, and the professional instructors need to be personable and approachable, so they can gain the trust of the pupils from the very first day, in order to help them push themselves.

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

14-Nov

How long should the trip be for?

2 - 4 Nights

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

All pupils would benefit from an overnight outdoor educational visit, i think in order to get the best from all groups of pupils, different packages that cater for different groups are needed. An overnight stay should look very different to a group of high achieving and physically capable pupils in comparison to a group of pupils with educational or emotional needs. With careful planning between instructors and teaching staff this should always be the case.

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

Not all pupils will want to take this opportunity of an overnight stay due to a number of different reasons, however, it is still vital for pupils to have the opportunity to access opportunities to develop their skills outdoors. It would be beneficial for these pupils to have day trips to outdoor facilities or that instructors could come to school in order to offer different types of sessions. During Covid we worked closely with instructors from Aberdovey Outward bound centre who offered a number of different outdoor and educational sessions for the pupils, this also allowed pupils to get to know the instructors before some of them took part in our residential visit to Ogwen cottage the following academic year. This was beneficial to a number of pupils who felt anxious about attending the trip as they had already developed relationships with the instructors.

A select number of pupils at Ysgol Uwchradd Tywyn have always enjoyed and engaged with the different outdoor education opportunities that have been provided to them over the years (at a cost) and it has been an essential part of their development. It would be great to extend these opportunities to all pupils and allow them to experience the same opportunities.