

Senedd Cymru | Welsh Parliament

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

Ymateb gan University of South Wales, | Evidence from University of South Wales,

Are you (your organisation) currently a provider of outdoor education?: No

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?

1. Holistic development (social, emotional, cognitive etc) which is experiential in nature.
2. Children develop a connection with nature and the outdoor environment
- 3 .Both of these enable children to find a sense of self and a sense of place. If we want children to appreciate the natural environment and become stewards of the planet, they must be afforded opportunities to connect with it , to care for it .

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;Paternal anxiety / uncertainty;Child anxiety / uncertainty;

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

children with ALN gain positive outcomes from learning in much more hands on and experiential ways

It can positively impact all children - supporting physical and mental health and igniting a passion to be outside, embracing the outdoors. The research post Covid is clear that being in nature improves mental health .

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?

I don't think so , because its an offer

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)

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

Yes

Please explain your answer and highlight any possible implications from having a standard approach of four night/five day experiences (whether positive or negative).

does it need to be standard ? it depends on the setting , and venue as well as journey time .

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?

This proposal is one step forward in helping provide opportunities for children to reconnect with the outdoors.

Outdoor residential do not always need to be rock climbing and canoeing etc - they can be forest walks, Nature art workshops, woodland craft activities - which can be more suitable for children who fear the more traditional 'outdoor' activities. Mental health benefits from all of these aspects.

Outdoor pedagogy is something that needs to be part of every school curriculum - where children learn and the curriculum is taught using the outdoor environment as a vehicle for this.

12:00:00 AM