

Senedd Cymru | Welsh Parliament

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

Ymateb gan Rhodri Thomas, , | Evidence from Rhodri Thomas, ,

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

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## Your opinion

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

Quite important

What are the main benefits to children and young people from having a residential outdoor education experience?

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?

No

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?

Don't know

What are the main barriers which you believe currently exist to children and young people accessing residential outdoor education experiences?

Financial constraints;Parental 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?

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?

The narrow focus of this bill on one type of educational activity over and above others could lead to pupils who do not wish to participate being stigmatised due to factors such as anxiety or parental situation. Similarly, a trip may be free but the associated equipment, clothing etc may lead to labelling of those who cannot afford that of the same quality of branding.

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?

Not at any age

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

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No

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

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Setting such narrow time criteria for the activity is counter-productive. Some activities are better suited to longer/shorter time periods. Micromanagement through legislation is an unsuitable way to encourage such activities.

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?

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Strongly disagree

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

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This bill seeks to micromanage the way schools approach the needs of their pupils. It gives little flexibility and runs counter to the idea in the new curriculum that provision should respond to the needs of pupils rather than being a one-size fits all. There are benefits to residential activities but there needs to be flexibility and this bill removes much of that. I welcome an encouragement to provided experiences to pupils but the approach of legislating down to the length of the experience is not the correct way to do this.

12:00:00 AM