

Senedd Cymru | Welsh Parliament

[Bil arfaethedig – Bil Addysg Awyr Agored \(Cymru\)](#) | [Proposed Outdoor Education \(Wales\) Bill](#)

Ymateb gan St. Mary's Brymbo, | Evidence from St. Mary's Brymbo,

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?

Personal development

Builds resilience

An appreciation of the outdoors environment

Having taken numerous children on residential trips with school, I see first hand the benefits of such trips. The sheer enjoyment and excitement that is generated is priceless. If I may share one story: A mum had told a child to put on a fresh pair of underpants each day. This the child did. On the third morning, when he was obviously uncomfortable, a member of staff enquired what was wrong and discovered that the child had put on a clean pair of pants each day but they hadn't taken off the old pair! It is the simple things and wider experiences that help the children grow.

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;Patental 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?

I have taken children form a Resource Provision unit sailing. The staff thought that I was mad and that the children wouldn't cope. The children loved it and thrived to such an extent that three were asked to attend

RYA pathway sessions. I asked the staff to consider, how else are we limiting the children by our expectations of them?

Powerful lessons.

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?

No

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).

If this is the first time the children are away, then it may be too much, no matter what age. Also the demand on the staff to be away from family is a big expectation.

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?

It must be fully funded.

12:00:00 AM