

Senedd Cymru | Welsh Parliament

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

Ymateb gan Jon-Paul Guy, Headteacher, | Evidence from Jon-Paul Guy, Headteacher,

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?

They can promote self confidence and social skills

They can offer experience of activities that pupils may not have access to otherwise

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;

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

Currently the law means that parents of pupils who are eligible for eFSM or other benefits can attend for free. However some other families may struggle but they are not entitled to support and schools can charge for the boarding and lodge.

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 am concerned that there is insufficient funding to support pupils in school currently and this will divert much needed funds from in school support.

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?

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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This is dependent on the children in the cohort. For some children four nights may be too long but for others it will be appropriate. Schools need flexibility to determine the length based on their knowledge of the pupils.

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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I am concerned why this is determined a priority. Why are outdoor pursuits being given greater priority over schools taking children to see stage shows etc? Whilst some children benefit from outdoor education others would benefit far greater with an opportunity to visit a European city etc.