

POE45 Pete Robertson, Owner/outdoor instructor

Senedd Cymru | Welsh Parliament

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

Ymateb gan Pete Robertson, Owner/outdoor instructor, | Evidence from Pete Robertson, Owner/outdoor instructor,

Are you (your organisation) currently a provider of outdoor education?: Yes

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

Experiencing a new environment

Opportunity to start a life long healthy activity/hoby

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?

So often the people who benefit most are under achievers in a conventional education environment

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 I do not see anyone not benefiting from this.

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).

This time scale allows enough time for the pupils to settle in and take part in activities in a way that allows them to relax and enjoy.

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?

Working in the outdoor world and living in Wales I constantly experience only English schools attending outdoor centres and speak to neighbours and friends who, although they live in Snowdonia, do not take part in any outdoor activity throughout their lives.

This is often due to not having an opportunity due to cost at a younger age.