

Senedd Cymru | Welsh Parliament

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

Ymateb gan Conor Watt, Outdoor Instructor, | Evidence from Conor Watt, 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?

- 1) Outdoor centre trips are often a child's first taste of physical activity outside of traditional sports. These outdoor activities often have a much a closer link to the natural world.
- 2) For many children, it may be their first overnight trip without direct parental supervision. With this, they develop greater independence.
- 3) As the activities at outdoor centres are often new to a child, they represent a challenge. Facing this challenge, and hopefully enjoying it, fosters a greater level of resilience.

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;

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

Yes. It will allow broader access to outdoor education residential trips, instead of them being limited to children whose parents are able to afford the fees. In times of financial difficulties, as we are in now, this is particularly important.

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 see no potential negatives to children.

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).

The range of activities you are able to cover, and the depth to which you are able to cover them, is much greater over a 4 night period. This allows for a more meaningful experience overall.

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's about time.

12:00:00 AM