

POE51 Orange Mountaineering

Senedd Cymru | Welsh Parliament

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

Ymateb gan Orange Mountaineering, | Evidence from Orange Mountaineering,

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?

Residential outdoor education takes young people from their norms and allows them to develop relationships with each other and the natural environment which they may have little experience of.

It helps them develop confidence and resilience by being challenged in unfamiliar activities and spaces.

It gives them access to sports and recreation which is not traditionally taught in schools allowing them to find alternative physical and mental wellbeing.

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; Schools having lack of desire or support from government in releasing pupils to go during school time;

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

It removes the financial barrier which will hopefully enable lots more young people to experience the natural world and environments in Wales

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?

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?

Older (please state below)

Y6-Y9

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).

Having worked hundreds of programmes over nearly 20 years, the ones pupils seem to show the most development in tend to be this length. They have had time to adapt from home life and begin to grow and thrive

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?

The provision of outdoor education despite widely happening within Wales tends to take schools from England. It would be great to see school pupils within Wales experience outdoor education within their own country