

Senedd Cymru | Welsh Parliament

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

Ymateb gan CMC Adventure, | Evidence from CMC Adventure,

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?

Broadened Horizons, Social Skills and Personal Confidence. These may seem simple concepts but the affect of the pandemic and the interruption to education for so many young people as well as the social isolation felt are reason enough to provide residential outdoor education trips for young people. The balance of adventure and support in a professionally managed environment is a magnificent vehicle by which young people 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;Health reasons;Disabilities;Additional Learning Needs;Patental anxiety / uncertainty;Child anxiety / uncertainty;cultural expectations;

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

Outdoor Learning opportunities allow all participants to be challenged in a different environment. Our experience is that young people are far more likely to concentrate on the things they have in common whilst taking part in adventurous learning experiences than they are their differences. The residential environment provides the opportunity for guided reflection. This helps promote understanding and tolerance.

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 think the majority of providers would offer positive inclusive practices so I only consider there to be a risk where poor provision is experienced.

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 is the practice of most of our school groups. Two days is really too short for the learning processes to bed in. No sooner have the young people arrived and they have gone. A minimum of 4 nights allows them to settle and become used to their new environment and then to make the best of it as individuals and as a group. Pupils gain a better relationship with their teachers and vice versa.

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?

Obviously, we are going to be in support of this as a provider. I do think that there needs to be a clear definition in the bill to ensure that quality and standards are clear to all involved and to ensure shortcuts are not taken. It would be good as well to be able to record successes and measure the positive impact going forward.

We are already planning to increase our capacity and re-develop our facilities to offer state of the art residential learning opportunities it would be amazing if a good proportion of this increase in capacity would be taken up by Welsh young people. Most of our groups currently visit from England because they recognise the powerful learning opportunities afforded by the magnificent outdoor environment in Wales, at CMC Adventure we would like to see many more Welsh young people access this as well. I have delivered meaningful outdoor learning around the globe and it transcends language and bridges borders. Lets ensure that those young people living in Wales have first access to powerful, adventurous, life long outdoor learning opportunities.

12:00:00 AM