

Senedd Cymru | Welsh Parliament

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

Ymateb gan Allison Waters, Headteacher, | Evidence from Allison Waters, 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?

Take part in more adventurous activities

Develop team work

good for well-being

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?

No

What are the main barriers which you believe currently exist to children and young people accessing residential outdoor education experiences?

Patental anxiety / uncertainty;Child anxiety / uncertainty;Staff availability to support a visit;

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

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?

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Year 6 (age 10-11)

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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Two nights is just enough to maintain good behaviour, ensure pupils remain totally engaged. As a school we previously offered longer but this caused problems so we shortened the offer which made it far more successful. There would also be problems getting school staff to attend for longer and supervise the visit. Cover back in school would also be costly.

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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Disagree

Is there anything else you would like to say about this proposal?

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I do not agree with it as schools already offer visits without being instructed to do so. If this is to become law then consideration needs to be given to actually staffing for 24 hours a day and not rely on school staff who give up their time 'free of charge' to support these visits.

12:00:00 AM