

Senedd Cymru | Welsh Parliament

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

Ymateb gan Andy Middleton | Evidence from Andy Middleton

In what capacity are you responding: Outdoor education professional

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?

Connection to nature

Building confidence

Building skills and insights for active 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;Patental anxiety / uncertainty;Lack of imaginative programmes;

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

There are few better ways to teach the importance of diversity than by showing, through adventurous and experiential learning programmes in nature, how biodiversity has been a cornerstone of nature's growth since life began on earth.

Well-designed outdoor activities are an excellent 'leveller' that can give all pupils an opportunity to shine.

At the progressive end of delivery, and not included by anything like providers, school residential can be used to sharpen the skills to solve real world challenges back in the classroom.

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?

None that I can think of

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?

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).

Longer trips usually have deeper, longer lasting impacts but are not normally chosen as they infringe on family weekend time, and cost more.

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?

Agree

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

It's a little unambitious.

TYF's goal for outdoor experiences is to help people fall in love with nature so deeply that it changes how they live, whilst building fearless curiosity to ask questions that will change the world.

I couldn't see anything about nature connection, VUCA context of their adolescent, guaranteed disruption from climate impact or goal setting in relation to wellbeing. The outdoors is a perfect place to help all of these make sense.

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