

POE65 Dr Glenn Strachan, I am responding as an individual with 38 years experience of working in education, including as a consultant on the Education for Sustainable Development and Global Citizenship guidance in Wales. Recently retired I am Chair of Trustees for the Shared Eart,

Senedd Cymru | Welsh Parliament

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

Ymateb gan Dr Glenn Strachan, I am responding as an individual with 38 years experience of working in education, including as a consultant on the Education for Sustainable Development and Global Citizenship guidance in Wales. Recently retired I am Chair of Trustees for the Shared Eart, | Evidence from Dr Glenn Strachan, I am responding as an individual with 38 years experience of working in education, including as a consultant on the Education for Sustainable Development and Global Citizenship guidance in Wales. Recently retired I am Chair of Trustees for the Shared Eart,

Are you (your organisation) currently a provider of outdoor education?: No

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?

Personal development - an opportunity to increase confidence, demonstrate practical skills and abilities not seen in the classroom.

Broadening perspectives - see their peers in a different context and teachers gain a new perspective on their students.

Connect with nature and see themselves as part of the natural world.

(In short, learn to care for themselves, care for each other and care for their environment.)

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;Disabilities;Child anxiety / uncertainty;

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

Providing outdoor residential learning can give those children that find classroom learning more challenging than others an opportunity to excel in a different learning context. This can be a catalyst for change and an individual's school career.

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?

There are a range of personal issues that might make a residential experience difficult for some children. The Bill includes the important statement to the effect that it is an opportunity that all children should be offered and encouraged to take, but it is not compulsory.

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?

Don't know

Please explain your answer and highlight any possible implications from having a standard approach of four night/five day experiences (whether positive or negative).

Possibly better to have a minimum requirement of two/three day or three night/four day. I suggest this as it depends how the requirement will be fulfilled. Where it will happen/distance from the school and type of accommodations, etc.

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?

Out of classroom teaching should be an important element of every child's education and it supports the Curriculum for Wales as shown by Learning Through Landscapes (<https://ltl.org.uk/news/how-outdoor-learning-can-help-you-fulfil-the-four-purposes-of-the-new-curriculum-for-wales/>) It is also identified as a key element of Education for Sustainable Development and Global Citizenship.

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