

Senedd Cymru | Welsh Parliament

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

Ymateb gan Paul Frost, Trustee The Outdoor Partnership, | Evidence from Paul Frost, Trustee The Outdoor Partnership,

Are you (your organisation) currently a provider of outdoor education?: Yes

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## Your opinion

How important is outdoor education to children and young people's overall education and development?

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Very important

What are the main benefits to children and young people from having a residential outdoor education experience?

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Personal and Social development

Physical and Mental Well-being

Environmental awareness

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?

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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?

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Yes

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

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Financial constraints;Health reasons;Disabilities;Additional Learning Needs;Patental anxiety / uncertainty;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?

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Aid personal development, independence, resilience and self reliance in a regulated environment. Residential experiences provide an enrichment over what can be offered in the traditional school environment such as regular nutrition, first hand guided experience of the environment. So much of the Welsh culture and language is vested in the outdoors and is particularly important for an economy that is widely focused on agriculture and farming.

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?

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Apprehension on the part of pupils being placed in an unfamiliar environment. Apprehension is often a symptom of excitement. This can be mitigated by ensuring the education offer has reference to what goes before and what follows on after, such as the Outdoor Learning Framework for schools developed by The Outdoor Partnership.

Apprehension on the part of parents, which can be mitigated by providing a quality educational offer (such as the LOtC Quality Mark) and a regulated safety framework with qualified delivery.

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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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).

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Equality of provision, it makes no sense to provide a legal duty that can be watered down to a lip service provision. There also needs to be a reasonable period in which the benefits can be embedded.

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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Strongly agree

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

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12:00:00 AM