

Senedd Cymru | Welsh Parliament

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

Ymateb gan Chris Winn, Teacher and EVC, | Evidence from Chris Winn, Teacher and EVC,

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?

Very important

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

Development of their personal characteristics: allow them to experience challenge and test their limits.

For many pupils it is a once in a life time opportunity to experience the natural therapy that innately comes with being out in the wilderness. In a growing world of anxiety and stress. Pupils might find that being in the outdoors work for them and aids in the mental health.

Brings life skills into the real world.: team work to achieve an actual physical accomplishment.

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;Parental 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?

I feel all pupils would benefit and enjoy these experiences and therefore this would have a positive impact on them long term. Self realisation that i can achieve, when I take a risk, that other people are here to support me and for me to support others. There really isn't many opportunities in life where these skills are experienced in a safe and nurturing environment.

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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The potential negative impact is if the experience is left too late in a pupils education and therefore other barriers get in the way preventing pupils from taking the risk to attend the residential.

Thus my reason for not pay at some point. If this was delivered early in a pupils education it could start a comfort with outdoor residentials.

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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Younger (please state below)

I feel that any age over 7years of age is appropriate for an outdoor residential.

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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I have been lead teacher for 4 nights, staying at venue, 1 group first half of week, 2nd group after. It is exhausting for a fit adult, for pupils it might have negative returns with being too tired to enjoy it and therefore make the experience poor. They might not be physically able to achieve and enjoy the activities due to tired as pupils are not as fit as they once were. For older pupils in high schools I feel it is more appropriate and challenging.

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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I think this bill is a positive move forwards for pupils, from a life skill and opportunities for personal growth as well as mental health benefits. There are many options in the outdoors to appeal to all sorts of pupils.

From an educational point of view it aids in the delivery of the new curriculum as well as the four purposes.