

Senedd Cymru | Welsh Parliament

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

Ymateb gan Ysgol Cae'r Nant, | Evidence from Ysgol Cae'r Nant,

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?

Increased confidence, resilience and experience of a different 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?

Paternal anxiety / uncertainty; Financial constraints; 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?

All learners benefit.

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?

Some children are extremely anxious about leaving their parents. A whole week away from their parents if they have not ever slept away from home before would be too long for them. Maybe the week could be split into two shorter residential visits to two different sites.

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?

Younger (please state below)

We currently take both our Year 5 and Year 6 learners on residential trips.

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).

We currently take our Year 5 and Year 6 learners on two night residential trips. On the third day they are ready to go home.

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?

Neither agree nor disagree

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

I think taking children away on residential trips is one of the most valuable experiences that our learners get whilst they are at our school. I do worry about staff though.

Staff do not get paid extra, for the additional responsibility of looking after learners overnight or for the additional hours that they work.

Learners have increasingly complex needs. We returned from a residential trip to Glan Llyn last week, we took a type one diabetic learner with us, staff were testing his bloods every two hours, morning noon and night. The pressure of constantly stabilising blood levels and the constant reassurance that we had to give parents was extremely challenging. There were other learners requiring medication and 5 other children needing constant reassurance and support because of their anxieties.

Staff are becoming more and more reluctant to offer to go on residential visits. I strongly suggest that if the Bill is successful and staff have to take learners on residential visits, then staff who go need to be paid an extra sum of money, this too should be part of the Bill.