

Senedd Cymru | Welsh Parliament

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

Ymateb gan Malpas Court Primary, | Evidence from Malpas Court Primary,

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?

For many children, holidays are just not an option. In my school, 56% of pupils are eFSM and half of my pupils can not afford to attend residential trips. They miss out on these life changing experiences.

The top three benefits are as follows:

Facing fears and challenges and overcoming them.

Broadening horizons and providing opportunities that could otherwise be out of reach for many.

Self-confidence and self-esteem, learning independent and life skills.

Making memories for life!

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;Additional Learning Needs;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 that making the provision universal would support pupils and remove barriers for all learners including those from low income families. However, i feel that a three day funded trip would be sufficient, this would also reduce the cost of the proposal.

Pupils living in poverty or from low income families simply can not afford to fund such trips. This means that they miss out on key learning opportunities. Being away from a school environment enables many pupils to thrive, especially often those who find the classroom environment difficult. If we are aiming to support all learners to achieve the four purposes then residential trips are essential.

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?

I can not think of any negatives.

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).

It is too restrictive. Often three days and two nights is enough. It would be better to work with outdoor learning centres and discuss equity in the provision so that learners all have quality of experiences. I have been on a few residential where the learners did far more in three days than they have in other venues. Quality not quantity!

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?
