

Senedd Cymru | Welsh Parliament

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

Ymateb gan Gareth Davies | Evidence from Gareth Davies

In what capacity are you responding: Parent / Carer

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?

Learning life skills to be resilient, gain personal confidence from their successes in overcoming challenges, social skills while overnighing with peers. Aside from personal development an important connection to nature.

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;

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

Living with peers, sharing meals, and particularly facing your fears being pushed mentally and physically on adventures creates a greater understanding and connection with your peers who you share the experiment with, many of whom they may not really know even if they share a classroom. This deeper connection and understanding brings people together.

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?

No, not on a well managed residential with experienced instructors who can individualize the adventures so everyone is challenged yet enabling success for all too.

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?

Older (please state below)

14-16 on their way to adulthood when the personal skills they can develop through residential become so important.

Is four nights/five days the best length for a residential outdoor experience?

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).

Anything shorter doesn't give chance for the pupils to truly settle in. This gives chance for instructors to connect with the pupils, push them mentally and physically, give them chance to develop and ultimately build to achieve great success through completing any number of adventures.

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?

Strongly agree

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

The residential needs to be coupled with build up of skills in school and then post residential reflection so it isn't stand alone.