

OE-002 - Penllergaer Primary School

Senedd Cymru | Welsh Parliament

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

Ymateb gan Ysgol Gynradd Penllergaer | Evidence from Penllergaer Primary School

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

Proposed Outdoor Education (Wales) Bill

Consultation: Response form

Are you submitting this response in a professional or personal capacity?:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Professional capacity (including on behalf of an organisation)	<input type="checkbox"/> Personal capacity
<p>Are you responding on behalf of an organisation?</p> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<p>Age:</p> <input type="checkbox"/> I am under 13 years old <input type="checkbox"/> I am aged 13 to 17 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> I am aged 18 or over and wish my contribution to be anonymised <input type="checkbox"/> I am aged 18 or over and happy for my name to be published with my contribution
<p>Are you (your organisation) currently a provider of outdoor education?</p> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<p>In what capacity are you responding?</p> <input type="checkbox"/> Child / Young person <input type="checkbox"/> Parent / Carer <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other

If professional, or a provider of outdoor education, your role and the name of organisation for which you are responding:

Penllergaer Primary School.

Consultation questions

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

- Very important
- Quite important
- Don't know
- Not very important
- Not at all important

2. What are the main benefits to children and young people from having a residential outdoor education experience? Please list your top three benefits:

New experiences involving the outdoors, making memories

Improved confidence and self-esteem

Developing independence

3. 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
- No
- Don't know

4. 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
- No
- Don't know

5. What are the main barriers which you believe currently exist to children and young people accessing residential outdoor education experiences? (please tick all that apply)

- Financial constraints
- Health reasons
- Disabilities
- Additional Learning Needs
- Parental anxiety/uncertainty
- Child anxiety/uncertainty

- Other (Please state)
- None

6. Equalities considerations:

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

Yes, all pupils would benefit from the experience and all pupils would be able to go regardless of family finances if it was free. Pupils would benefit from time away from home and learn vital skills such as independence, perseverance and resilience. Many would experience dressing themselves, picking out what they need to wear, which is sometimes done for the by parents. Also experience no technology and importance of sitting together at meal times.

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?

For pupils with disabilities, it would be essential that staff accompany them. If these experiences are overnight, will there be staff available to go with them? Would these members of staff be paid extra for going on the residential in their own time?

7. 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)
- Younger (please state)
- Older (please state)
- Not at any age

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

- Yes
- No
- 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).

Assuming that you have staff willing to go with pupils I think 4 nights/five days is a sufficient amount of time. They are then able to take advantage of

everything that is on offer during the experience. However, for some pupils, who have not had time away from home, 4 nights would be daunting. It could be beneficial for pupils to experience a shorter residential 3 days/2 nights before they embark on a longer residential. Ultimately, schools know their pupils and what would be best for them. Parent voice would also be useful too.

9. 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
- Agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree

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

I think that the new curriculum has highlighted the importance of learning experiences for pupils. It is important to consider that when pupils go on residential and school staff accompany them, they are doing this in their own time. It is a massive responsibility to be on call 24 hours a day, 5 days a week. Some schools, indeed smaller schools might not have the staffing ratios for these experiences.

If the experiences are free, who ultimately will be paying for it? Will the money come out of school budget? Will all schools be given a pot of money for the experiences? Budgets at present are tight and this will have massive implications for schools.