

OE-023 - Ysgol John Bright

Senedd Cymru | Welsh Parliament

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

Ymateb gan Ysgol John Bright | Evidence from Ysgol John Bright

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

Proposed Outdoor Education (Wales) Bill Consultation: Response form.

Name: Nick Fleet

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

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

Head of Physical Education and Outdoor Education - Ysgol John Bright.

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:

Immersive engagement and understanding of the outdoors. We can not understand something that we have never experienced.

To experience the opportunities for adventure and challenge that exist in the outdoor environment.

To experience the health and well-being benefits that can arise from engagement in outdoor pursuits.

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?

-
-
- x
- 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?

-
-
- x
- 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)

-
-
- x
- Financial constraints
-
-
-
-
- Health reasons
-
-
-
-
- Disabilities
-
-
-
-
- Additional Learning Needs
-
-
-
-
- Parental anxiety/uncertainty
-
-
-
-
- Child anxiety/uncertainty
-
-
-
-
- Other (Please state) - An out-of-date school curriculum. Curriculum for Wales will fully support this sort of activity.
-

-
-
-
- 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?

There will be the benefit of residential living and learning. It will enable skilled practitioners to ignite an interest in the outdoors so that learners revisit their local environment to become healthier and happier individuals.

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?

If there is good communication between the providers and the school before and during the residential then it could benefit all individuals. If the school was involved with selecting and grouping learners and helping with objective and target setting this could help mitigate possible negative impacts.

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)
-
-
-
- x
- Older (please state)
-
-
-
-
- Not at any age
-

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

-

-
- x
- Yes
-
-
-
-
-
- No
-
-
-
-
- Don't know
-

Please explain your answer and highlight any possible implications of having a standard approach of four-night/five-day experiences (whether positive or negative).

Single night or short stays are not immersive for long enough to make a sustained change to young people.

I believe that we need a residential experience when learners are old enough to develop beyond the social challenge of living away from home. Where the experience challenges them intellectually to form opinions and challenge understanding. In this way, there should be pre-residential and post-residential cross-curricular work that complements the objectives of the residential. The summer term of Y8 or Y9 could be ideal for this.

It would be best practice to have future goals set to try and lengthen the impact of the experience.

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?

-
-
- x
- Strongly agree
-
-
-
-
- Agree
-
-
-
-
- Neither agree nor disagree

-
-
-
-
- Disagree
-
-
-
-
- Strongly disagree
-

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

It is important to select the Outdoor Education Provider. Not the Outdoor Activity Provider. Short-term high excitement with no learning does not complement Curriculum for Wales or contribute to the Four Purposes. We need activities focused on environmental learning and engagement to complement the well-being and development of individuals so that they can appreciate and value natural areas.

We don't need to achieve this in one experience but develop a connection so that in future, students might reconnect and benefit from further engagement with the natural world. This could help safeguard the well-being of future generations.

This proposal could also rescue the outdoor residential sector that was abandoned during and after the pandemic. This small sector could have an immediate and long-lasting impact on rural Wales, its residents and communities by safeguarding employment, revenue and independence from English Local Authorities.