

OE-032- Swansea Council

Senedd Cymru | Welsh Parliament

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

Ymateb gan Swansea Council | Evidence from Swansea Council

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

Proposed Outdoor Education (Wales) Bill

Consultation: Response form

Name: Jeff Fish

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 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:

Swansea Council, Stakeholder and School Support Manager

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:

The opportunity to move learning experiences beyond the classroom for those schools who have restricted school infrastructure.

The ability for children to embed confidence, independence and risk skills in a safe and fun environment.

The learned environment opportunities align extremely well with the CfW and could assist a continuum of learning.

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. An equitable accessible offer could benefit some pupils who currently are unable to access the provision.

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, albeit there must be no compulsion to attend. Parental and pupil choice must still be recognised.

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).

Could demand versus supply be a consideration? Does the current/planned provision meet possible demand. Has this been calculated?

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?

From experience residential weeks in the most popular locations (in the spring and summer months) are booked up by schools quickly and often by returning schools. It is important that there is an equitable offer and that we are confident that there is enough provision available.

Finally, it is important that the offer is FULLY funded (including transport etc) and that the funding reflects increasing costs over time.