

Cyflwynwyd yr ymateb hwn i'r [Pwyllgor Plant, Pobl Ifanc ac Addysg](#) ar [Bil Addysg Awyr Agored Breswyl \(Cymru\)](#)

This response was submitted to the [Children, Young People and Education Committee](#) on the [Residential Outdoor Education \(Wales\) Bill](#)

ROE 04

Ymateb gan: Mudiad Meithrin

Response from: Mudiad Meithrin

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Thank you for the opportunity to submit a few comments on the proposed Outdoor Education Bill.

Depending on its composition and content, this Bill could have the potential to build perfectly on the excellent work done by our settings (Cylchoedd Meithrin and day nurseries) to ensure that small children learning through play in Welsh have regular access to the outdoors. That is a core element of Foundation Learning pedagogy in the Curriculum, and it promotes the wellbeing and prosperity of small children in general.

We know from many sources of evidence that outdoor learning has a host of benefits for young children.

Fortunately, Mudiad Meithrin has now succeeded in its bid to secure Welsh Government funding for students involved in a pilot scheme for a new qualification that we have adapted into Welsh, namely Bod y Tu Allan - Level 3 Certificate (the original version of the qualification was prepared by Professor Jan White).

There are 10 practitioners on the course, who will have qualified by the end of 2024. We are grateful to the Welsh Government for the funding it has provided to allow us to take six assessors through the qualification to become assessors on this level 3 course, and to pay for the course to be translated. To further support practitioners, Mudiad also has a number of learning and development resources through its Academy training wing, giving attention and emphasis on being outside. In addition, a series of conferences organised by Mudiad in 2024 will focus on being outside.

The course itself aligns perfectly with the curriculum for funded non-maintained nursery settings. The students learn about working with the seasons, the weather, natural materials in their home areas and using the outside wherever they are located.

To summarise, our interest would be in ensuring that the Bill pays due attention to the needs of our youngest learners with regard to learning outdoors, while also taking advantage of the opportunity to ensure that there are genuine opportunities to learn through the medium of Welsh (tied in with the ongoing Welsh Medium Education Bill).

With regard to the principle that primary school children and young people have the opportunity to spend at least a week in a residential centre and experience life and education outdoors, it is difficult to disagree with the suggestion as there are many benefits to that.

There is evidence that some children and young people from certain backgrounds miss out on such experiences.

We would therefore agree with that vision (although concerned about the impact of funding this on wider budgets in terms of early years education in the current financial climate).

Yours sincerely,

Dr Gwenllian Lansdown Davies

Chief Executive