

Senedd Cymru | Welsh Parliament

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

Ymateb gan Victoria Evans, Headteacher, | Evidence from Victoria Evans, Headteacher,

Are you (your organisation) currently a provider of outdoor education?: No

---

## 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?

Increased self-esteem and confidence: Engaging in new and challenging experiences can help children and young people to build their self-esteem and confidence as they develop new skills and abilities.

Improved physical health and fitness: Outdoor activities, such as hiking and camping, can help children and young people to improve their physical health and fitness through exercise and exposure to fresh air and sunlight.

Increased problem-solving and teamwork skills: Participating in outdoor activities and challenges can help children and young people to develop their problem-solving and teamwork skills as they work together to overcome obstacles and complete tasks.

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?

No

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?

No

What are the main barriers which you believe currently exist to children and young people accessing residential outdoor education experiences?

Paternal anxiety / uncertainty; Child anxiety / uncertainty; Staffing availability & cost to the school ;

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

Outdoor education can have a positive impact on physical and mental health by providing opportunities for physical activity, exposure to nature, and stress relief.

It can help students to develop important social skills

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?

---

Not all children will want to attend and this puts pressure on them and takes away their right to choose.

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)

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

---

No

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

---

Staffing - you make the assumption that every school will have the staff to facilitate this. They get paid no overtime, and it is a huge responsibility. Additional staff are needed and a school has to pick up the costs of releasing extra staff. We can not currently afford the basic or anything beyond a skeleton staff. Staff are expected to leave their own families.

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 disagree

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

---

Requiring all schools to provide week-long residential trips can be a significant ask of already exhausted and overburdened teachers and staff. It can also place a significant responsibility on them, with no additional compensation. Teachers are expected to add yet another aspect to their role. This falls outside their terms and conditions. Teachers and staff, who are often already overburdened and stretched thin. Adding additional responsibilities, such as organizing and leading outdoor education trips, could place an additional burden on already overworked teachers.

12:00:00 AM