

Senedd Cymru | Welsh Parliament

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

Ymateb gan Expeditions Wales, | Evidence from Expeditions Wales,

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

Your opinion

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

Quite important

What are the main benefits to children and young people from having a residential outdoor education experience?

Experiences of a different environment outside normal area

Opportunities to take responsibility

Team work and communication skills.

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

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?

Don't know

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

None;

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

Those who are not naturally athletic but keen to take part in activities. Children & YP who would not normally be able to partake in adventurous or outdoor activities. Ethnic & lower income backgrounds.

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?

Ensure that any activities or programmes align with the National Curriculum and/or provide a meaningful, measurable experience.

Negative impacts may be space for provision. In my experience, only a few weeks a year ever fit into the timetable and given capacity, this is not realistic for all.

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?

Older (please state below)

13 - 16.

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).

Five days is a long time away in current times. This bill seems to suit a taste of the outdoors best, that would suggest 2 nights away as being a good starting point.

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?

Disagree

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

At present, the proposal is too idyllic and tokenistic. It puts pressure on Education establishments to find additional resources, time and funding to deliver on a vague outline.

Traditional models need to be reviewed against the results of other experiences, whether shorter term and higher impact or through outreach.

Traditional centres may also lack capacity, so partnership situations should be considered, e.g. yha's & external providers.

The outside costs involved, especially transport need to be considered in great detail, as well as educational value and results.

12:00:00 AM