

Senedd Cymru | Welsh Parliament

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

Ymateb gan Stuart Lade | Evidence from Stuart Lade

In what capacity are you responding: Adult

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## 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?

I have seen first hand the benefit of young people attending an outdoor residential experience, increased confidence, camaraderie, an initial spark of adventure that often leads to future outdoor participation in various activities, experiences that so often stay with them for life.

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?

Yes

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

Financial constraints;

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

With the decline of council run LEA outdoor centres, the outdoor activity sector has become ever more privatised, which has led to reduced opportunities for young people from poorer backgrounds. The NCS schemes unfortunately has too many corporate layers and the actual amount of money that goes into activities for young people is poor, and often the activity provision is lacking, particularly on the personnel development focus. The NCS schemes typically target going purple from the poorest backgrounds, but there is still a dearth of support and provision for all but the most well off students.

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?

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Not that I can foresee.

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?

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Older (please state below)

I think start of secondary is an ideal age, and a great firm of bonding.

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

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Yes

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

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I think it's a good length of time to make it a memorable experience, provide opportunities for different activities and flexibility on scheduling with weather, a good length to provide bonding opportunities, easier staffing, programming for schooling, and a good number of days for parents to have a break without being too long away.

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?

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Strongly agree

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

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