

Senedd Cymru | Welsh Parliament

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

Ymateb gan Gethin Mon Thomas, Consultant and Lecturer at Bangor University, | Evidence from Gethin Mon Thomas, Consultant and Lecturer at Bangor University,

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?

When considering Curriculum for Wales. Adventure learning can contribute towards a learners development in realising the four purposes. Experiences in the outdoors and the associated challenges will support the development of the integral skills as well as providing real life experiential learning opportunity that connect and transfer learning with learning in the classroom across a range of statements of What Matters.

Progress over a period of a week, building on previous learning either in school or from shorter day visits, will reflect CfW principles of progression. In other words, learners will acquire knowledge and develop understanding, they will acquire, develop and refine skills of increasing sophistication and will be encouraged to connect and transfer learning to real life challenges. As they make progress they will develop their personal effectiveness, build confidence and learn to collaborate and cooperate, solve problems creatively and innovatively. All of which are important employability skills.

The outdoor partnership is currently developing an adventure learning framework that is informed by CfW. The framework would accompany the bill by providing structure and focus.

Please contact myself or the outdoor partnership for further information.

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?

All learners. For too long adventure learning has been used as a tool to manage behaviour and develop learners with ALN or challenging behaviour. Using the outdoor partnership adventure learning framework as a guide would provide focus for the school and learners to make the most of the residential opportunity and support learning more broadly across CfW.

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?

No.

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)

Will also have benefits at a later age

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

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).

A residential experience develops learners, confidence, resilience, independence and aspirations.

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

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

The proposed weeks residential must be accompanied by lead up learning and activities as well as follow up activities. Please see the outdoor partnership adventure learning framework currently being trialled in schools across Wales.