

POE113 Sian Dixon, Outdoor learning teacher in Powys school

Senedd Cymru | Welsh Parliament

Bil arfaethedig – Bil Addysg Awyr Agored (Cymru) | Proposed Outdoor Education (Wales) Bill

Ymateb gan Sian Dixon, Outdoor learning teacher in Powys school, | Evidence from Sian Dixon, Outdoor learning teacher in Powys school,

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?

Develops confidence, resilience, an appreciation of the environment around them. Promotes physical literacy, and provides opportunities for children to try activities they may not have access to at home.

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; Child anxiety / uncertainty; Health reasons; Disabilities; Additional Learning Needs; Parental anxiety / uncertainty; Lack of qualified adults / willing adults to accompany children on residential trips;

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

LAC AND FSM pupils may not have had many experiences due to financial constraints. This could open their horizons and give them opportunities to develop new interests.

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?

Poorer children may have a taste of these activities but then not be able to access them regularly due to lack of funds in the home, which could make them feel disadvantaged compared to their peers.

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?

Younger (please state below)

1 nights sleep over would be suitable for primary aged children. Secondary children could cope with longer residential stays

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).

In Primary 1 night is adequate. 4-5 days away can be very tiring and could deter children who are ASD and struggle with lack of routine.

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?

I think that all schools should receive funding to provide more opportunities for outdoor activities on site not just residential trips so that skills and interests of all children can be fostered and improved over a longer sustained period.