

OE-005 - Individual (professional)

Senedd Cymru | Welsh Parliament

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

Ymateb gan Unigolyn | Evidence from Individual

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

Proposed Outdoor Education (Wales) Bill

Consultation: Response form

Are you submitting this response in a professional or personal capacity?:

<input type="checkbox"/> Professional capacity (including on behalf of an organisation) x	<input type="checkbox"/> Personal capacity
Are you responding on behalf of an organisation? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes x <input type="checkbox"/> No	Age: <input type="checkbox"/> I am under 13 years old <input type="checkbox"/> I am aged 13 to 17 <input type="checkbox"/> I am aged 18 or over and wish my contribution to be anonymised <input type="checkbox"/> I am aged 18 or over and happy for my name to be published with my contribution x
Are you (your organisation) currently a provider of outdoor education? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes x <input type="checkbox"/> No	In what capacity are you responding? <input type="checkbox"/> Child / Young person <input type="checkbox"/> Parent / Carer <input type="checkbox"/> Other x

If professional, or a provider of outdoor education, your role and the name of organisation for which you are responding:

I deliver outdoor education programmes including John Muir Award, DofE Award, Forest and Coastal School sessions.

Consultation questions

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

- Very important x
- Quite important
- Don't know
- Not very important
- Not at all important

2. What are the main benefits to children and young people from having a residential outdoor education experience? Please list your top three benefits:

Appreciation and understanding of natural world, improved wellbeing and emotional regulation, awe and wonder of nature, improving teamwork and confidence

3. 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 x
- No
- Don't know

4. 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 x
- No
- Don't know

5. What are the main barriers which you believe currently exist to children and young people accessing residential outdoor education experiences? (please tick all that apply)

- Financial constraints x
- Health reasons
- Disabilities
- Additional Learning Needs
- Parental anxiety/uncertainty x
- Child anxiety/uncertainty
- Other (Please state)
- None

6. Equalities considerations:

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

All pupils would be guaranteed the opportunity to take part in a residential experience. Those memories will last a lifetime and learning that takes place during these sessions can have a big impact on each learner. More and more pupils are becoming more sedentary and living in a virtual world, they need more interactions with the natural world and to learn what nature can offer them free of charge. More children are not venturing as far from their homes as previous generations, it is important that children have a sense of adventure and the confidence to push themselves out of their comfort zone.

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?

[Click or tap here to enter text.](#)

7. 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) x
- Younger (please state)
- Older (please state)
- Not at any age

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

- Yes
- No x
- Don't know

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

Pupils should gradually increase the time spent away on residential. Many children would struggle to spend 4 or 5 days away from parents. The duration of stay should increase as pupils mature and gain in confidence.

9. 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 x
- Agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree

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

I think it is an excellent idea to legislate and ensure that all children access residential outdoor education sessions.