

## **Residential Outdoor Education (Wales) Bill**

### **Consultation on the draft Bill: Response from NEU (by e-mail)**

Dear Gareth,

Many thanks for your email requesting our views on the Bill.

Please find below our views as requested.

The main barriers for children living in poverty in accessing this kind of provision will be cost and lack of familiarity with outdoor pursuits.

We think the main thing to highlight is that for children in poverty to be able to access this, schools would need to ensure that the outdoor education itself is free, and that access to things like equipment is also free/provided by the school or outdoor education centre. As such we could suggest strengthening the clause amending 71A: 3(i) to say that cost must not be a barrier, or that there should be a cost free option for parents, including the costs of equipment (e.g. if the children need raincoats or a particular type of shoe/boot).

We're not sure the extent to which this would solve the problem but it would be a good start.

The only other thing we were possibly concerned with was the costs to schools in different areas/contexts and how funding would be allocated. It could be worth asking that the funding provided by LAs is somehow tethered to Free School Meal levels/Pupil Development Grant? That way schools with higher levels of need could get more funding to be able to subsidise places for poorer children, etc.

We hope that the above is what you were looking for.

Best wishes,

**Stuart Williams**

**Swyddog Polisi / Policy Officer**

**Cyfathrebu a Hyfforddi / Communications and Training**