



Cyngor Cymru ar Gyfer
Dysgu yn yr Awyr Agored

Wales Council for
Outdoor Learning

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Dear Lynne

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome you to the position of Cabinet Secretary for Education and to express the wish to continue the positive dialogue, relationship and support developed with your department through your predecessors Kirsty Williams and Jeremy Miles.

The [Wales Council for Outdoor Learning](#) acts as a voice for the outdoor learning sector bringing together organisations that support and deliver high quality teaching and learning in the outdoor environment. Along with [Outdoor Learning Wales](#) and [Outdoor Learning Training Network Cymru](#), the partnership shares good practice and influences policy development, highlighting the many benefits of learning in nature and its contribution to the development of ethical and informed citizens of future generations. The Council helps to raise the profile of outdoor learning, the connection to nature, heritage, and place that it fosters (Cynefin), and the many benefits that brings to both people and nature. In doing so, a greater understanding and appreciation of the value of outdoor learning develops and its vital contribution to our future generations, and our current nature and climate change emergencies.

The [Council](#) includes a diverse group of organisations, both active and supporting, and a full list is provided at the end of this letter. The Council covers the entire range of outdoor learning, from use of our school grounds, local parks, historical environment, woodlands and beaches; to those enabling field studies, environmental education, recognised accredited approaches to teaching like forest school and coastal school, the outdoor elements of residential stays and adventure education. It can provide expertise in areas ranging from Initial Teacher Education, professional learning and curriculum support, use of school grounds for play and learning, connection to nature for well-being and physical health improvements, supporting awards, land ownership, residential and overnight expeditions, climate and nature education, national guidance and health and safety.

In recent years we have worked closely to provide support, advice, and guidance across this pedagogy, contributing to the development of the Curriculum for Wales, helping to now realise this progressive curriculum, as well as responding to other consultations, and engaging in ongoing dialogue to continue to support the development of outdoor learning and climate and nature education. We do this by signposting to high quality resources, promoting use of the [High Quality Outdoor Learning for Wales](#) guide to support assessment and through training and CPD for educators.

We will shortly be celebrating the fifth [Wales Outdoor Learning Week](#) from 22nd to 28th April. This week celebrates all the amazing learning, play and enjoyment that takes place in our wonderful Welsh environment. The week encourages teachers, education groups and families in Wales to embed outdoor learning into school and family life and reap the many benefits connecting with nature provides including the proven benefits to emotional health and mental well-being.

I welcome the opportunity to continue this important relationship and I look forward to supporting you at this exciting and challenging time. It would be beneficial to meet, and we would love to host you on visits to see outdoor learning pedagogy in action.



Stephanie Price

Chair, Wales Council for Outdoor Learning

Croesewir gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg a byddwn yn ymateb yn Gymraeg, heb i hynny arwain at oedi.

Correspondence in Welsh is welcomed, and we will respond in Welsh without it leading to a delay

Partners – those with an all Wales remit

Duke of Edinburgh's Award (Chair)

Bangor University (Graham French - Vice Chair)

Centre for Alternative Technology (Amanda Smith - Vice Chair)

Outdoor Education Advisors Panel

John Muir Trust

UK Youth for Nature

RSPB Cymru

Wildlife Trusts Wales

Urdd Gobaith Cymru

Wales Adventure Tourism Organisation

Dŵr Cymru

Field Studies Council

Wildfowl and Wetland Trust

Tree Council

Cardiff Met University

Youth Hostel Association

Regional Members

Antur Natur

Pembrokeshire Outdoor Schools

North Wales Outdoor Education Service

Partneriaeth Consortia

With support from:

Natural Resources Wales (Secretariat)

Cadw

Bannu Brycheiniog National Park