

Proposed Schools (Residential Outdoor Education) (Scotland) Bill

Introduction

A proposal for a Bill to ensure that young people have the opportunity to experience residential outdoor education.

The consultation runs from 29 April 2022 to 22 July 2022

All those wishing to respond to the consultation are strongly encouraged to enter their responses electronically through this survey. This makes collation of responses much simpler and quicker. However, the option also exists of sending in a separate response (in hard copy or by other electronic means such as e-mail), and details of how to do so are included in the member's consultation document.

Questions marked with an asterisk (*) require an answer.

All responses must include a name and contact details. Names will only be published if you give us permission, and contact details are never published – but we may use them to contact you if there is a query about your response. If you do not include a name and/or contact details, we may have to disregard your response.

Please note that you must complete the survey in order for your response to be accepted. If you don't wish to complete the survey in a single session, you can choose "Save and Continue later" at any point. Whilst you have the option to skip particular questions, you must continue to the end of the survey and press "Submit" to have your response fully recorded.

Please ensure you have read the consultation document before responding to any of the questions that follow. In particular, you should read the information contained in the document about how your response will be handled. The consultation document is available here:

[Consultation Document](#)

[Privacy Notice](#)

I confirm that I have read and understood the Privacy Notice which explains how my personal data will be used.

On the previous page we asked you if you are UNDER 12 YEARS old, and you responded Yes to this question.

If this is the case, we will have to contact your parent or guardian for consent.

If you are under 12 years of age, please put your contact details into the textbox. This can be your email address or phone number. We will then contact you and your parents to receive consent.

Otherwise please confirm that you are or are not under 12 years old.

No Response

About you

Please choose whether you are responding as an individual or on behalf of an organisation.
Note: If you choose "individual" and consent to have the response published, it will appear under your own name. If you choose "on behalf of an organisation" and consent to have the response published, it will be published under the organisation's name.

an individual

Which of the following best describes you? (If you are a professional or academic, but not in a subject relevant to the consultation, please choose "Member of the public".)

Professional with experience in a relevant subject

Optional: You may wish to explain briefly what expertise or experience you have that is relevant to the subject-matter of the consultation

I have first hand experience as a young person of the transformational benefits of residential outdoor education. This inspired a 20+ year career working in the sector to deliver similar experiences to young people. I have also undertaken research in this field.

Please select the category which best describes your organisation

No Response

Please choose one of the following:

I am content for this response to be published and attributed to me or my organisation

Please provide your Full Name or the name of your organisation. (Only give the name of your organisation if you are submitting a response on its behalf).

(Note: the name will not be published if you have asked for the response to be anonymous or "not for publication". Otherwise this is the name that will be published with your response).

Kate O'Brien

Please provide details of a way in which we can contact you if there are queries regarding your response. Email is preferred but you can also provide a postal address or phone number.

We will not publish these details.

Aim and approach - Note: All answers to the questions in this section may be published (unless your response is "not for publication").

Q1. Which of the following best expresses your view of the proposed Bill? (Please note that this question is compulsory.)

Fully supportive

Please explain the reasons for your response.

It is essential that all young people have the opportunity to experience a connection with nature in their formative years. The social and emotional benefits are also huge. At a time when mental health challenges amongst young people are at an all time high, and technology encourages more time sat sedentary on screens its so important for young people to reconnect with the natural world, themselves and real life relationships with other people.

Q2. Do you think legislation is required, or are there other ways in which the proposed Bill's aims could be achieved more effectively? Please explain the reasons for your response.

Legislation would guarantee that resources and provision are put in place for all. Legislation will likely impact on how such experiences are funded and the level of priority that is placed upon them in a world where there are so many competing pressures. To legislate says, we value this, this is a priority for our young people.

Q3. The proposed Bill will cover residential outdoor education provision for local authority and grant-aided schools only. Which of the following best expresses your view that independent schools or any other education establishments should not be covered by this obligation.

Unsure

Please give reasons for your response.

Ideally everyone would be covered, although my sense is that many independent schools prioritise this aspect of education already.

Q4. The intention is that the obligation to ensure that residential outdoor education is provided would fall on those who are responsible for arranging the provision, e.g. education authorities and managers of grant-aided schools. Which of the following best expresses your view of this proposal?

Fully supportive

Please explain the reasons for your response.

Responsibility has to lie with those who have the power, and access to resources to make it happen. I'm sure this would create many opportunities for partnerships with local outdoor education providers within the sector too.

Funding

Q5. Which of the following best expresses your view of how residential outdoor education experiences should be funded?

In full by the Scottish Government

Q5. Which of the following best expresses your view of how residential outdoor education experiences should be funded?

Please explain the reasons for your response. (If you consider Scottish Government funding should be provided to local authorities, please set out the mechanism for such funding, for example through block grant, ring fenced funding etc.)

If these experiences are fully funded then all young people can participate regardless of their parents values, interest, beliefs, financial circumstances etc. I don't know enough about how Scottish Gov funding works to comment but ring fencing an amount per annum would be good.

Financial Implications

Q6. Any new law can have a financial impact which would affect individuals, businesses, the public sector, or others. What financial impact do you think this proposal could have if it became law?

some increase in costs

Please explain the reasons for your answer, including who you would expect to feel the financial impact of the proposal, and if there are any ways you think the proposal could be delivered more cost-effectively.

I would expect the government to feel the financial impact of the proposal. Cost effectiveness could be achieved through large scale contracts with existing residential providers.

Standard/ Quality of provision

Q7. Which of the following best expresses your view on the proposal for a quality framework to ensure the quality of the education provision of outdoor centres?

Fully supportive

Please give reasons for your response, including whether this should be done by HMIE using a quality framework as part of their inspection of schools and the extent to which, if any, it should be statutory.

It would be great to have a quality framework if it was based on assessing appropriate markers of quality e.g. centre facilities, instructor relationships with young people, impact on young people. If the stress and pressure of it reduced the autonomy to deliver personalised experiences this would be less good.

Q8. Which of the following best expresses your view that the age range of 12 – 16 is appropriate for participation in the residential outdoor education experience?

Partially supportive

Please give reasons for your response, including whether you think other age ranges would be more appropriate.

I think younger age 8+ would also be appropriate, and up to the age of 18. However 12-16 captures the age when young people are forming their identities, making life choices and pursuing new hobbies etc.

Q8. Which of the following best expresses your view that the age range of 12 – 16 is appropriate for participation in the residential outdoor education experience?

This is a good and memorable age for an outdoor education experience. 16-18 would provide a good opportunity for transition to further study, work, apprenticeships type life skills.

Equalities

Q9. Any new law can have an impact on different individuals in society, for example as a result of their age, disability, gender re-assignment, marriage and civil partnership status, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex or sexual orientation.

What impact could this proposal have on particular people if it became law? If you do not have a view skip to next question.

Please explain the reasons for your answer and if there are any ways you think the proposal could avoid negative impacts on particular people.

Making this a funded experience for all young people as part of their education would alleviate any barriers / discrimination on the basis of protected characteristics. This could also be built into the quality assessment framework to ensure provision is a positive experience for all groups in society.

Q10. How might equity of provision for all be ensured, regardless of socio-economic status? Please give reasons for your response.

As previously mentioned, funding for all through government as part of a child's education.

Sustainability

Q11. Any new law can impact on work to protect and enhance the environment, achieve a sustainable economy, and create a strong, healthy, and just society for future generations.

Do you think the proposal could impact in any of these areas? [If you do not have a view then skip to next question]

Please explain the reasons for your answer, including what you think the impact of the proposal could be, and if there are any ways you think the proposal could avoid negative impacts?

This law would connect more young people with the natural environment, meaning they are more likely to be responsible citizens and understand their role in protecting the environment. The law would also create business for the outdoor education sector which has been hit hard by the pandemic, contributing towards a sustainable economy. Opportunities for all contributes towards a just society, where differences are valued, understood and respected. Negative impacts could be avoided through partnership working between schools and outdoor education providers to ensure sustainability is at the heart of provision.

General

Q12. Do you have any other additional comments or suggestions on the proposed Bill (which have not already been covered in any of your responses to earlier questions)?

I hope it is passed, as it would make a difference for generations to come.