

# 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".)

Teacher/school employee

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

I'm a teacher with experience of delivering outdoor education, as well as a parent.

Please select the category which best describes your organisation

*No Response*

Please choose one of the following:

I would like this response to be published anonymously

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).

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.**

Outdoor education is extremely important. Special activities such as residential outdoor education are also extremely enriching, especially for children from less privileged backgrounds. It would be ideal if schools in postcodes with higher deprivation were given funding for additional weeks. Outdoor education experiences need to be offered free of charge and food provided.

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 and additional funding are both needed. Please ensure that schools are able to fulfil this requirement without strain on staff or already tight budgets.

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.

Fully opposed

**Please give reasons for your response.**

All children should be offered this experience.

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?

Partially supportive

**Please explain the reasons for your response.**

Councils should receive additional ringfenced funding for this.

## 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

**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.)**

Ring fenced funding provided to local authorities by the Scottish government. Councils are already struggling and Conservatives putting more requirements on councils without funding will be received badly. Parents are already finding that schools are inadequately funded and they are being asked to contribute

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

financially to school events, despite growing financial pressures.

Parents not on free school meals are still experiencing hardship and if parents are expected to fund these trips then many children will miss out.

## 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.**

While this would cost the government/taxpayer more, jobs would be created by this - including construction jobs if more centres are built.

## 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?

Partially opposed

**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.**

The point of outdoor education is not to be strictly pedagogical but to be more free and informal. Narrow frameworks will be counterproductive and have a negative impact on pupils. Focus on quality staffing will go further.

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 opposed

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

10-16 would be more ideal. Year 7 should be able to have special experiences before leaving primary school, and this would support them in gaining the maturity they need to succeed at secondary.

## 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.

There must be Gaelic language provision for GME pupils. Otherwise GME is being weakened and these pupils are getting the message that Gaelic is not important. Also, LGBT pupils and their needs must be taken into account when dealing with how rooms are allocated - for example, a lesbian pupil may experience bullying and discrimination if placed with either boys or girls, so there must be some freedom given to make sure everyone is safe and secure. A high level of adult supervision and pupil choice in sleeping situations would be beneficial and also allow trans pupils/LGB pupils to be included without anyone feeling uncomfortable or in danger.

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

This should require no payment from parents at all. It is also important that family finances should not affect it, and we all know that many parents who aren't on benefits or eligible for free school meals are struggling to pay for the basics, let alone this. It must be offered free at point of use to pupils, including food.

## 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?

Yes, it will be positive in terms of how pupils interact with the environment as well as supporting young people's mental health and long term attainment.

## 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 would like to again highlight the need for GME provision.