

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

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).

Alison D'Arcy

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.)

Partially supportive

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

Please explain the reasons for your response.

I believe that there also needs to be a clause that insists on at least one Gaelic medium outdoor centre being established in Scotland for young 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 is required so that politicians keep to their promises but also do so in a way that is more than just ticking a box.

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 supportive

Please give reasons for your response.

Local authorities have had their budgets decimated, which has led to LA schools losing out on even the most basic of resources. It would be unfair for fee-paying schools to benefit from this support as they already have too much of an advantage in comparison with LA schools.

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.

It is part of the curriculum, therefore it is the responsibility of education authorities to fulfil this important part of the curriculum.

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.)

The Scottish government has cut LA funding, which has in turn cut education budgets in LAs. I think it's about time that the SG invests in education, seeing as the First Minister asked that her legacy be judged by how she improved education. The SG should ring fence money for this especially after the long lockdown which impacted so negatively on our children and young people. It's time the SG invested in our

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

young people and provide equal opportunities for all. Outdoor learning is crucial to health and well-being, but it is also crucial if we are to save the planet; people need to feel a connection to the environment before they can be moved to make choices that will protect it.

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.

Current outdoor centres which are charities (such as Outward Bound) might be negatively impacted by this. However, it will cost less for LAs and parents to provide their children/pupils with outdoor experiences.

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.

Yes, all educational establishments should be under scrutiny when it comes to quality care and teaching of young people. HMIE could establish an outdoor learning quality framework, perhaps with some input from other groups who have experience in that sector. We need to ensure that staff, programs, facilities, etc are of a certain quality just as we would for any other educational establishment. There needs to be accountability.

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?

Fully supportive

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

In my professional experience, I have seen that this age group benefit the most from outdoor learning opportunities as it can really boost their confidence and help them to meaningfully connect with others. It encourages a growth mindset when they are trying to figure out who they are and where they want to go in life.

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.

I think it will be important to make outdoor learning accessible for people who are disabled, physically and mentally. Careful planning and consultation will ensure that they will have their needs met.

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

Places on course programs should be funded, at least for those who are at an economic disadvantage. I have seen how summer scholarships can have a hugely positive impact on young people from economically disadvantaged backgrounds.

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?

I can only see positive outcomes from this proposal for the environment, economy and society. As I have said, connection with nature ensures a respect for nature and the environment, which can lead to climate change activism. Establishing outdoor centres would create local employment in areas where there are free opportunities for employment. Creating confident young people through challenging but rewarding outdoor programmes can help them to become more connected with others and contribute positively to society.

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 want to emphasise the need for at least one outdoor learning centre to be fully Gaelic medium. This will cater for pupils currently in GME, a growing sector, but there is also the possibility of creating a programme for any pupil to engage with the language and the outdoor environment as learners.