

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

Manager of an English local authority residential education service (4 centres).

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).

Richard Oakes

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.

Without political commitment, and integration of residential education into a child's educational entitlement, short-term financial pressures will continue to reduce capacity and opportunities for residential outdoor education.

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. Non-statutory services or provision will always be high on a list when immediate financial savings are required. Existing guidance and direction is too vague to ensure consistent and fairer access and deliver longer-term outcomes - including societal and economic.

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.

This sets a benchmark for independent schools (which may already be meeting it); parents choosing those schools do so presumably on the balance of their educational offer, and their ability to pay.

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.

What is the role of Head Teachers? There is a difference between provision and uptake of places. Not sure of the respective responsibilities of Heads and education authorities in Scotland.

Funding

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

In some other way

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, block funding paid by the Scottish government to local authorities based on pupil numbers,

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

with attendance targets attached to promote maximum uptake of places. Value pp up to a fixed amount as a contribution to the full cost, eg. £250, with top-up from parental contribution or additional help for low-income families. NB providers have varying costs and charges. There is a risk that one fixed "rate" of eg £400 could be translated as a "one-size fits all".

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?

a significant reduction 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.

Needs to be seen in the longer term re socio-economic benefits. Increase in short-term costs to the public purse and families, offset by long term socio-economic gains (eg. employment skills, learning attitudes) and savings (eg. mental and physical health, crime and disorder). The question is time-dependent; I'd view the costs as an investment with good return prospects.

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 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.

Many centres will already hold an externally accredited quality badge with some emphasis on the quality of teaching and learning (and including a SEF), eg. the Learning Outside the Classroom quality badge; Association of Heads of Outdoor Education Centres Gold (as well as adventurous activities licencing where it applies). Duplication is best avoided - so it may be possible to consider existing quality frameworks. However, I do see merit incorporating residential outdoor education providers into more mainstream educational practice, so am broadly supportive.

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.

All ages are appropriate, and this is a broad range. For one-time universal access, 12-16 is 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?

formative years to develop life and learning skills. Is there an ambition to focus down on one particular year-group, for consistency of opportunity and outcomes, and logistical arrangements? Is there a risk that in some schools this may reduce the perceived need for opportunities for other year groups? Are there any plans for statutory provision in the primary sector, eg. P7, to support transition and give scope for progression?

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.

Some individuals have very specific needs which are best met by specialist providers, often at necessarily higher costs. Consideration needs to be given to this. Consideration would need to continue to be given to reducing real and perceived barriers to participation by some societal groups, and individuals.

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

Additional financial help for individuals with very specific needs and associated costs; investment in specialist facilities; developing a workforce in outdoor education that reflects broad society.

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. Interaction with nature and "wild" places develops and appreciation for and value of the natural world, giving context and real meaning to environmental issues and actions not achievable remotely. Many providers will have their own environmental sustainability plans and programmes, transferable to school and home environments eg. the John Muir Award.

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)?

No Response