

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".)

Residential outdoor third-sector provider

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

Chief Instructor- Outdoor Education, B.A.Hons Adventure Education

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).

Alexander McHugh

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.

Why do I support the Outdoor education Bill?

As a child with dyslexia, going through the education system. I constantly came up against the concept that I was a failure, unintelligent or incompetent. This was reinforced by the education system suggesting that to meaningfully contribute to society. I needed to score highly academically. To reference a famous cartoon and the endless articles about the pitfalls of standard means testing. I grew up to feel like a gold fish be judged on its ability to climb a tree and not swim an ocean. For anyone growing up like this there's a number negative connation's, myths and false notions that develop as a result.

My first outdoor education residential at 10 years old. Was hugely implemental to the person I developed into. I recall how the activities acted as a leveller to my peers. Those who were perceived as "academically bright or Sporty" would find difficulty in task that others had the opportunity to excel. It was at that point I began to understand that your worth as a person wasn't limited to your academic prowess, but we all excelled at different skills, and being able to understand or work with others was as, if not more beneficial than a score on an exam paper. Through furthering my exposure to the benefits of outdoor education. Through further school residential, The Duke of Edinburgh scheme and youth organisations such as the Scout movement. I developed a very different mind set to those of my peers who didn't have similar opportunities. Where they found difficulty and failure, I found Challenge, Problem solving, resilience and reward even when success wasn't met. It hugely developed my self confidence and image, Encouraged me to pursue the things I didn't think I could do think beyond my self but what I could offer to others.

Today's world challenges our young people in ways never experienced by previous generations. Social media while a useful tool, negatively challenges young people perception of themselves and how they perceive others view them. Further more technology that previous generations welcomed. Has developed into a double edged sword. While connecting us to broader resources and people. It has also removed the interpersonal skills and broken down relationships to become almost entirely virtual and disconnected.

I chose a career in Outdoor Education because of my personal experience previously mention. Through My work and university studies. I see first hand how much participants develop both socially and personally. I see how quite students often on the peripheral of the class. Become key members contributing the group in a manor others couldn't simply grasp. I see how students develop "light bulb" moments where challenges they thought to big become footsteps. And actively see their confidence build that they seek out the next challenge to be solved. Individuals stop thinking internally and start to think about wider actions. Rather than tearing each other down they actively look to build each other up, raising themselves in the process. Outdoor education doesn't just address the social and mental well being of it's participants. But gives them ownership over the current Social, economic and political issues they face such as climate change, land use and conservation. These residential also offer students the opportunity to explore new ways of understanding and learning, giving them an opportunity to see much of the theoretical practice they learn in a classroom in action in the real world.

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.

No. without the Legislation, the status quo doesn't change. Many are aware of the benifits which outdoor education provides to all ages. but not all simply have the access both physically and finacially. Therefore Outdoor education is viewed as a comdity and therefore a luxurgy only available to those who can afford it. By legislating residentials, Outdoor education stops being an expensive comodity and becomes a service with the potential to meaningfully address many issues young people face. This legislation would equip young people with the tools to not only contribute to society in a meaningful way. But to get out ahead of issues such as drug addiction, depession and mental health which goverments spend billions on after care rather than adressing the root of the isses

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.

simply Equal opportunity for all backgrounds. Regardless of the type of school young people attend. They are all challenged by many of the same problems. Confidence is not something taught in a text book and measured by a Grade, value or measure. But is untagable and only developed through 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?

Fully supportive

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.)

Scotland has had a history of Outdoor Education centers previously funded by Local Authorities. Before 2007 there were over 200 LEA outdoor centers and nearly 2000 outdoor centers. In 2022 there are less 52 LEA and private outdoor education centers still in operation, with many closing their doors as a result of Cost cutting by local authorities or covid-19. If funded by the Scottish Government. Then centres are more likely to be able to operate beyond just the bread line and used to be more than just school trips but provide residential opportunities for charities that work with families in crisis and youth services.

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?

no overall change 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.

in the long run. the Benefits that Outdoor education has on young people will go far beyond its cost. as a by product you will see a larger population relying on the products of their labours rather than the expectation from government.

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.

Outdoor education isn't something that can be done through a simple tick sheet. a lot of what centres do is unmeasurable by traditional means. However I do believe that a frame work does need to be in place so that an educational outcome is met rather than just an Activity program with the hope some kind of change occurs.

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.

Outdoor Education can offer so much to a wider range of ages tackling issues they become more pressing at differnt ages. I would like to see at least 2 residentials become Mandatory from 8 year olds through to 18 year old.

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.

No Response

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

If funded directly by government. this should be open to all removing the barrier that socio-economic barriers have

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?

Outdoor education is often focused around developing understanding of environmental impacts and practical ways to solve the issue. If anything I see a very positive environmental affect as a result

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