

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

30 years professional experience working in residential outdoor education in Scotland

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).

Neil Smith

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

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.

I think new legislation and policy maybe required to service the demand created by this proposal and satisfy the quality assurance methods highlighted in the document.

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.

Partially supportive

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.

I think that if the obligation was with the local educational authorities then there maybe a renewed investment in the sector with small scale sustainable residential centres run by local authorities to cater for the demand becoming established. This would redress the decline in local authority provision since 1996 and Regional authority reorganisation and the closure of many centres in Scotland. This could also provide strong links to the schools in the authorities and not be an abstract experience but be coupled with the curriculum and class learning. Hopefully the new local authority centres would be within their authority and provide a place-based model integrated into the experience.

Funding

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

In full by local authorities (for local authority-run schools)

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 experience should be full integrated into the curriculum and the new local authority centres would be funded from the school estate just like new build schools that cost multi-millions to establish and pay-off. The running costs could possibly be contributed to by participants to help sustain this model, but only an nominal fee and then subsidised by local authority of Scottish Government? I would think funding would have to be from multiple sources.

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 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.

As in any business I think it depending on the supply and demand. If it was made a statutory entitlement for 12-16 year old to go on a residential, I think the private centres costs may go up. However if local authorities could somehow re-establish their own residential outdoor education centres and cap the price or subsidise it from other budgets, then the price may go down and with the added benefit of possibly improving the professionalism within the sector of instructor / teachers in outdoor learning.

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.

Very important I think to monitor and develop the professionalism within the sector, especially as it is a school week and the outcomes should be aligned with the curriculum for excellence and learning for sustainability.

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.

I actually think that younger age groups (Upper and Lower Primary age) in schools are more appropriate and should be nurtured in a residential environment becoming more engaged with nature, while living in communal shared space away from digital technology. Developmentally, the neural pathways by 12 -16 are fairly well formed - however younger pupils and not just the traditional transition aged students (P7's) on residential would benefit hugely from residential outdoor education experiences. Secondary school residential experiences are still extremely valuable (especially subject specific at the senior phase of the CfE), however I feel that the entitlement should lie with younger students and the lessons learned being away from home in a communal setting with teachers, and outdoor learning professionals much like the 'Brilliant residential' model. In an ideal world there would be an entitlement in both Primary and Secondary for state school pupils to have a residential experience.

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.

The beauty of residential outdoor education experiences is that they can have a huge impact in the short and long term because they can be transformative in ways that traditional methods of measuring educational progress and attainment can't measure. It is also worth noting that the exponential positive growth and development of young people on residential can equally have negative impacts, if the social dynamics of the group in the field is not supported or an incident happens in the field that upsets a young persons while on residential, this can then have damaging affects and ultimately negative experiences of residential. I think this is another good reason for having quality assurance methods in place as proposed.

Residential outdoor centre's I think should be an inclusive as possible to support the needs of the individuals and groups. This can be costly with specific technical equipment and facilities but it can have amazing experiences for the young people when it is done in a fully inclusive way. If this is in law then these inclusive clauses about how to cater and support young people in the field will be essential. An example might be that every centre has an accessible buggy for students;
<https://www.delichon.uk/hippocampe>

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

PEF funding could be used by schools to support residential experiences.

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?

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDG's) should form the foundation for any provision and delivery. With quality assurance and HMI inspecting centres and expecting these to be supported through-out residential. This transference of pro environmental values and ethics in the field can hopefully have a lasting effect and impact within schools on return and in the young peoples personal life's.

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)?

The length of time on a residential has not been questioned in this consolation. The longer residential run the bigger the impact generally. Traditionally 5 days is the standard. However shorter residential for

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)?

younger children and longer residentials for older students would seem like a strong model? Obviously the costs associated with provision increases with time away, however so does the impact .