

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 teach a classroom-based subject but have NGB qualifications in outdoor learning; I use these voluntarily at school and occasionally on a freelance basis commercially.

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

If you have requested anonymity or asked for your response not to be published, please give a reason (Note: your reason will not be published):

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.

I agree with the principles behind the bill; young people should have a right to access this type of experience as a minimum. Due to cutbacks in LA provision huge numbers of young people are missing out on formal outdoor education. Only the lucky few - or those attending private schools / paid activities - can expect to access this.

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.

Yes, legislation is required. Whilst it may appear desirable to use HMIE inspections, QA frameworks and CfE guidance to try and force adoption, my 20 years' teaching experience has left me feeling doubtful about this approach: I can think of numerous examples where loopholes, obfuscation and outright lying has been used to get around similar guidelines such as whole-school Digital Skills provision, Literacy & Numeracy, PE entitlements, Languages 1+2 expectations, etc. Laying down a bill in law would give parents and other parties a clear standard to hold education providers to.

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 opposed

Please give reasons for your response.

I would prefer this bill to ensure all young people in Scotland receive an entitlement. My (limited) experience of private schools however tends to suggest they go far above this already, so less important but I think the law should apply to all pupils to ensure equity regardless of setting.

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 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.)

Local authorities will be best placed to consider local approaches to this; e.g. whether to run their own

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

centre, train their own staff, use qualified staff in other roles (e.g. I teach in a classroom but have Mountain Leader and Rock Climbing Instructor qualifications). They can then apportion appropriate funding for this and make funding decisions based on their own circumstances. There would however have to be some form of uplift to the block grant to allow this to happen.

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.

Many local authorities will face increased costs, having scaled down their staffing and facilities in Outdoor Learning. It could perhaps be considered to have a grant-based process that LAs could apply to in order to meet initial capital costs of reconstituting buildings, equipment and training.

As much as possible, parents/carers should not be expected to contribute to ensure equity of provision.

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.

HMIE would be a good vehicle for analysing the quality of provision that schools / LAs are providing, but commercial centres should also perhaps be encouraged to sign up to a quality framework that could become mandatory if they wish to provide residential experiences that count towards the statutory requirements.

It would also be important to allow individual schools & LAs to develop independent programmes that meet the statutory requirement; nothing should stop a school from training their own staff and hiring accommodation to self-deliver a programme, rather than relying on a commercial programme. This can increase the value and depth of pupil staff relationships in a school.

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

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?

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

This is a good range when pupils can start to take on more responsibility, leadership and challenge. It can also benefit those with low self-esteem or mental-health issues that often become apparent during early teenage years. Some consideration should also be given to upper primary (P6-7); from personal experience I benefited from an OE programme at this age; it was challenging to spend so long away from home, but did build my confidence.

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 would hope it would increase the provision of outdoor programmes to those with physical disabilities who can often be overlooked when planning active events.

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

By ensuring the programme is funded as part of formal education; without any form of means testing or other factors.

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?

Any good outdoor educational programme should enhance the awareness of environmental impacts in young people, so I would hope any impact of this bill would ultimately be positive. Some consideration should be given however to the current & future residential estates; many of the facilities are in ageing, poor energy efficient buildings and can be difficult to reach on existing public transport.

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