

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.

on behalf of an organisation

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".)

No Response

Please select the category which best describes your organisation

Third sector (charitable, campaigning, social enterprise, voluntary, non-profit)

Optional: You may wish to explain briefly what the organisation does, its experience and expertise in the subject-matter of the consultation, and how the view expressed in the response was arrived at (e.g. whether it is the view of particular office-holders or has been approved by the membership as a whole).

Learning through Landscapes - we are the national school grounds charity, championing outdoor learning and play for all children across the UK.

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).

Matt Robinson - Learning through Landscapes

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

Please explain the reasons for your response.

Learning outdoors is a right of every child in Scotland. That learning experience is required to be regular and progressive. Experiences across early years and childcare or school grounds expand into local area, and then onwards to wilder and more distant places. This progression of both learning themes and topics, when combined with a wider geography, broader social experiences and experiences of life outside of 'day to day' is deeply important for all children and young people. Residential experiences are not an exceptional learning experience, and the same would apply to all forms of learning outdoors. We support this proposed bill within the context of a wider understanding of outdoor learning and play provision within all early years, school and college settings. We have a small concern that the provision of a residential experience may reduce focus or funding for other areas of outdoor learning provision, and are keen that any residential experience is carefully integrated to the rest of the curriculum and overall learner journey.

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 do think that the legislation is required. This will ensure that funding is in place, that providers and schools have confidence to plan ahead and build longer term partnerships, and investment can be brought in by providers.

If written well, the legislation can provide an outline of what a quality provision will look like, how that integrates with the full learning journey and how that can be assessed by schools.

I do believe that a bill will need to be supported with suitable practical guidance around finding quality providers and designing the residential experience around GIRFEC.

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.

In choosing a privately funded education, parents and learner have opted out of significant state support for their education.

Our concern is around pupils on a full scholarship, where they have been granted a place through personal achievement. We do suggest there should be a bursary that they can apply to to pay for an equivalent experience, with a simple means test and confirmation from a school that they are on a full bursary.

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 important that the head teacher and teachers can build relationships with a provider. This is part of the process of agreeing learning outcomes and programme design. With a variety of ethos and difference in ability to provide, schools need to retain the ability to choose for themselves.

It is also important that Local Authority outdoor learning officers can assist and support these choices, monitor safety and quality, and further input into the choices schools make. This role at Local Authority

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level is pivotal in our experience. The role should be focussed on both quality and safety of experience, and depending on local authority may be more than one full time job.
Through partnership with SAPOE the funding for the Outdoor Learning Advisor role should be a part of this bill and funded in all local authorities.

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.)

Learning outdoors is the right of every child in Scotland. They have the right to engage with nature and play on a daily basis. Using outdoors as both a context and subject to study is embedded in our Curriculum, Inspections and Teacher Standards.

It is therefore part of the school journey for all. We suggest that funding and provision is the same as other areas of children and young people's education - funded centrally by the Scottish Government and disseminated to local authorities and schools.

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.

We believe there will be a slight increase in costs, these though centre around quality of provision and support to maintain quality of provision.

This support should be at local authority level - and not all LA outdoor learning officers have enough capacity to support what they need to. And not every authority has the role at all.

Some costs will be for outdoor centres, ensuring high quality of staff being recruited, trained and retained.

This is vital to an industry with huge issues around low pay, low experience, short-term careers at one end, and high-quality, highly experienced and trained staff at the other end.

We also have an issue of not enough bed space in Scotland, and an issue of so much capacity is being taken by huge centres who barely leave site and work on a low cost, high volume, high marketing model.

Outdoor centre staff who hold teaching qualifications could be included on GTCS Standards for Professional Registration.

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.

I am supportive of this, but have concerns.

Long term there is a benefit of having higher quality, better trained staff and deeper learning experiences for all.

That said, this framework needs to be developed between National and Local Government in partnership with all other providers and suppliers. SAPOE and NNOL should take a lead on this - much like GTCS model.

I also suggest that centres should be seen as part of the Scottish Learning Estate - and as such buildings should be fit for a learning environment and the future.

The model should be flexible and reviewed as to the impact and benefit.

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.

This is completely true - 12-16 year olds should have (at a minimum) a residential experience.

However, so should younger and older children. There could be more than one experience.

The important note is that the choice to go on a residential should be in line with Scottish guidance about a coherent and connected education experience for all learners. The residential should be embedded in other outdoor learning and LfS experiences - and intentionally planned by schools with GIRFEC and CfE in mind.

In forcing a residential we do risk a 'tick box' approach, and so support for leaders within school, support for Local Authority leads and good advice on selecting a quality provider is important.

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.

Many outdoor centres may need further investment to ensure that the residential facilities - rooms, food, access etc, fully support equality of access.

My old centres had huge areas which were not disabled accessible, large rooms with lack of privacy, a choice of only two shower rooms or toilets based on two genders, and struggled to cook for every choice. Many centres are older buildings - and not fit for ensuring equality of access.

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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.

Ensuring that the provision remains in Scotland and that centres can then invest in the future is a foundation of equality of access. Perhaps even centre building programme needed.

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

By removing financial payment to go on a residential, we reduced the barriers. There needs to be further support to remove other barriers - disability, cultural, personal and finances of providing enough clothes etc should also be embedded in this work. This will be a big job, and partnership with SAPOE and NNOL could provide a suitable forum to explore the issues and how they can be addressed on a GIRFEC basis.

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?

If the investment and provision remains in Scotland, we will invest in a vibrant and stable provision of residential centres. This will maintain jobs, often in rural areas. If the centre estates were seen as part of Scottish Learning Estate, then long-term investment and re-building would create first class, fit for the future, low carbon and biodiverse sites that benefit many in Education.

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)?

Overall this is an excellent proposal. However it is a more complex proposal than a simple grant for a residential experience. The proposals ought to incorporate wider Scottish policy such as Climate Change, Biodiversity, Equality, Education, Learning Estate and more. In providing an experience that meets the aims of Scotland being the best place to grow up, a lot more support is required. This is at Government & Local Authority level, and a huge partnership with providers and partners to design a system which meets the aspirations we hold.