

# 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 am a Modern Studies teacher at a state-funded school in Scotland. I am also the DofE coordinator for the school and teach an outdoor education programme for pupils with behavioural and learning ASN.

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

**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.**

As a result of the Covid pandemic, many young people not had the opportunity to go on what I would argue is the "right of passage" that is their P7 trip. Even prior to the pandemic, the number of schools able to offer residential outdoor education trips was falling due to the closure of outdoor centres and other factors. This is a missed opportunity for young to build resilience, develop peer-relationships and gain an appreciation for our beautiful country. I therefore believe that it is critical that young people are afforded this opportunity during secondary school.

As a teacher, the opportunity to see young people act like their "true selves" as soon as they are taken into an outdoor environment away from the social pressures of the classroom is incredibly rewarding. I also believe if all children were afforded this opportunity during their time at secondary school, the mental health benefits of time away from the classroom surrounded by nature would far outweigh the class time lost in terms of improving attainment. I could write for hours about the benefits of outdoor education on physical health, mental health, social and emotional development, sustainability... the list could go on! I wholeheartedly believe that this bill should become law, so that more young people and their teachers have the opportunity to experience the benefits of time out of the classroom in our great, Scottish, rainy, midge-ridden outdoors!

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 would argue that without mandating the opportunity for young people to go on a residential outdoor trip at secondary school, most young people in Scotland will never be offered this opportunity. Schools and councils are tight-pressed in terms of both time and money, so often outdoor education falls to the bottom of the priority list.

Making residential outdoor education "encouraged" rather than "compulsory" could also lead to an even greater poverty related "achievement gap" as well as attainment gap. This is because even where trips are fully funded, children from middle-class homes are more likely to be encouraged to sign up for these trips; and middle-class parents are more likely to put pressure on schools to run such trips.

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.

Neutral (neither support nor oppose)

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 support the obligation falling on councils and schools. Schools could perhaps appoint PT Outdoor Education positions which would hopefully increase the number of children also involved in non-residential outdoor education activities as part of the school curriculum.

## 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.)**

I would argue that costs should be covered in part by parents and carers, but with significant government subsidy. Perhaps a cost of £100 per pupil to parents and carers and £100 covered by government grants.

I do however think FSM entitlement is not a sufficient measure of which families are struggling, and schools should be able to apply for further fully-funded places on behalf of other families who are unable to pay.

## 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.**

I think it is important to remember that residential trips do not need to be "all singing, all dancing!" It is also arguably more inclusive to include activities such as paining in nature, building a campfire, and simply going walks in the countryside; over high-cost activities such as rock climbing and gorge walking. Schools could also be encouraged to include at least one day of conservation work as part of the trip to keep activities costs down. In addition, despite the initial costs, money could be saved by paying for school staff to gain their Lowland Leader Award, cycle leader qualifications etc. Likewise despite the initial cost of tents, some or all of the trip could involve camping which again brings down costs.

## 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?

Neutral (neither support nor oppose)

**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 unsure if adding an additional layer of bureaucracy to the provision of outdoor education is necessary. Outdoor instructors already have to constantly update their experience with organisations including Mountain Training. I would argue that the focus should be on young people having positive experiences in

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?

the outdoors and I'm unconvinced as to whether ensuring there are direct links between what they do on these trips and CfE will genuinely enhance the benefit to young people.

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.**

I would argue that 14-16 year olds would probably gain most from this type of experience, but I think having the flexibility to run trips between S1 and S4 is probably most practical.

## 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.

As stated previously, I do not think the whole trip needs to focus on traditional "outdoor activities." This will help young people from all backgrounds and with all levels of fitness to feel included, and perhaps disprove the myth that you have to be very fit and have access to specialist equipment to be "outdoorsy."

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

Please see previous response.

## 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 young people are given the opportunity to appreciate our beautiful country from a young age, they are more likely to respect the planet and make environmentally conscious choices throughout life. Residential outdoor trips will also hopefully foster an enjoyment for being out in nature which has long been proven to improve physical and mental health.

## 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*