

# 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".)

Member of the public

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

Both of my children were fortunate enough to have two residential outdoor education weeks while at primary school

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).

Diane Machin

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.**

The extensive evidence on the positive impact of residential outdoor education on young people's development is sufficient to justify all young people having the opportunity to benefit from such experiences.

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.

Legislation is required as the inadequate wording of existing statute has allowed outdoor education provision to be decimated for cost saving reasons despite the evidence on the benefits it delivers.

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 supportive

**Please give reasons for your response.**

Independent schools already provide significant opportunities for pupils to experience residential trips

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.**

Education authorities are best placed to know what provision is required based on the numbers of pupils in the relevant year groups. They are also best placed to understand what the focus of the programme should be in the context of the wider curriculum.

## 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.)**

If residential outdoor education is to become a statutory requirement it should be funded by education authorities in the same way as all other elements of the curriculum. However, a parental contribution could

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

be required from parents/carers who are able to afford it, with those on low incomes being fully funded. Alternatively, fundraising to cover some or all of the cost could be a requirement, forming an element of other parts of the curriculum such as enterprise or citizenship.

## 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.**

There will be cost implications associated with reinstating the significant amount of residential provision that has been lost over the last 30 years. However, partnership arrangements could be put in place between local authorities to ensure match provision with demand to enable use of facilities to be maximised.

## 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.**

This aspect of the curriculum should be designed in the same way as all other aspects with a minimum standard of service provision with flexibility for tailoring according to local need. The quality should be assessed by HMIE in the same way as other elements of the curriculum.

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.**

There is a danger that this requirement will result in existing provision for primary school age children being removed. An opportunity to spend time in a different environment away from parents/carers is very beneficial for primary school age children who are less likely to be disengaged from school than secondary school pupils. The older pupils are when this opportunity is made available the more likely a section of the

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?

population are to opt out. Adding this provision into exam years could also increase pressure on young people who are primarily focused on attaining academic qualifications.

## 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 the provision is a statutory requirement local authorities will be obliged to ensure it is made available to everyone. This is likely to require different approaches to funding in different areas according to socioeconomic factors. Low income families should be fully funded, those who can afford to pay should be asked to.

## 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?

Research shows that participation in outdoor education improves awareness of, understanding and respect for the natural environment. This provision could make a significant contribution to those elements of the curriculum focusing on climate change and sustainability issues. By encouraging young people to care for and about the environment it will help to develop future environmental champions.

## 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*