

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

I attended outdoor centres as a school pupil, as a student volunteer, as a domestic during college vacations to get experience, and spent two years teaching PE, followed by a whole career teaching outdoor education. Now retired.

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).

Kathleen (Kathy) Murgatroyd

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.

Outdoor education changes the lives of the children who are lucky enough to partake. For some, it is the only time they will get to have a week away from their family and area. They will be introduced to a whole new world, make new friends and try activities that could stay with them for life. A quote from one of my pupils "Miss, this is like a calendar, but we're in it".

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 definitely required. I used to work at Kilbowie Outdoor Education Centre, which North Lanarkshire Council saw fit to demolish. There is, as far as I can make out, no more provision for outdoor education other than day visits to Strathclyde Park, hardly the same.

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 opposed

Please give reasons for your response.

It is so easy to opt out of giving outdoor education, which I believe should be mandatory for all children not just those in state schools.

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.

This will ensure that the outdoor education actually happens, and that every child will be able to participate.

Funding

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

In full by the Scottish Government

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.)

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

The money should be ring fenced, thus ensuring total equality for all pupils, regardless of ability to pay. There is enough stigma attached to those living in poverty without making this more obvious. Local government does not have the resources to pay, they are finding it difficult enough to provide other essential services.

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 would have to be a slight increase in tax to pay for this. It should be possible for every child to participate and the money has to come from somewhere. The costs should not impact directly on the families of the children.

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.

Inspections of providers should be carried out, thus ensuring the safety of participants, but expecting a school inspector to have a knowledge of outdoor education may be unrealistic and specialised inspectors might be a better way forward.

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?

Neutral (neither support nor oppose)

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

I have worked with all school children. If outdoor education is left to high school age, it may be too late. More participants may be unwilling to fully immerse themselves in the programme and (for instance) Muslim girls may be prevented from participating after the age of puberty. The last year of primary school could be a better time.

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 previously stated, the last year of primary education may be a better time, to avoid the possibility of Muslim girls not being allowed on a mixed gender week. This timing could also be better for those children who come from other groups mentioned above. Alternatively, there could be special weeks set apart for those who require it, eg persons who use a wheelchair, girls who would prefer an all female environment, persons with autism and other special needs. As some do not take to outdoor education, maybe a residential school with some other activities could be an answer, as the main purpose of a residential setup is to promote independent living in a setting away from family, to make new friendships and to try new things.

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

No one should have to pay, because this is a compulsory part of education.

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 ethos of outdoor education includes helping others in an outdoor setting. There would be more local jobs created because of increased participation. Children would be more aware of the impact of throwing litter, of erosion caused by the passage of many feet, and of the benefits of outdoor exercise.

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)?

This is a very good idea, but I think the target age range should be primary school when the children are more receptive to the ideas that we are trying to promote and instil.