

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".)

Politician (MSP/MP/peer/MEP/Councillor)

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

Volunteer Youth Worker for past 17 years, involved with several youth organisations. Recently worked as Outdoor Activities Worker for South Ayrshire Council supporting the delivery of DofE in schools. Just recently elected as Councillor in South Ayrshire.

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).

Kenneth Bell

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 that Outdoor Learning and Adventurous Training / Experiences are very important in child development. Not all children are academic and poor performance at school can negatively impact on confidence and self-esteem. Outdoor Learning / AT can help children of all levels connect with the natural world, appreciate the benefits of physical exercise and challenges as well as gaining confidence and self-belief through achievements.

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.

Not sure that legislation is required, however it would force some local authorities to include Outdoor Learning into their curriculum and ensure that there is a consistent approach across Scotland. Additional funding and collaborative working between Local Authorities would be important also, particularly for supporting LA's who do not have current facilities / provision for residential Outdoor Learning. There are also opportunities to tie in with DofE and John Muir Award schemes.

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)

Please give reasons for your response.

Most independent schools will already provide such experiences, so I don't feel it would be appropriate. I would not support additional funding for independent schools for Outdoor Learning either.

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.

Agree that it should be down to Education authorities at local level to deliver & not imposed on them by a separate agency - also would be more effective / efficient way of delivery rather than by a separate (new) agency.

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.)

Ring-fenced funding for Local Authorities provided by Scottish Government.

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 be additional cost to public sector finances, however this may be offset by increase revenue generated from a growth in the Outdoor Learning Sector. In the short term, private providers would be required to help deliver experiences however longer term, it would allow for more stable careers for instructors in the Outdoor Learning / AT sector, employed by Local Authorities.

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.

Definitely needs a quality framework to ensure standards and outcomes are met - this could be included in Local Authorities Performance Reporting as well as via the HMIE inspection regime.

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

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

In South Ayrshire, Primary 7 children have the opportunity to attend a 4 day / 3 night residential experience at Dolphin House. The programme is extremely popular will limited capacity to increase it currently. Also,

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?

we are still 'catching up' post Covid with children who have missed out on this experience due to lockdowns etc.

Perhaps extending the aged to 11 to 17 years would allow for greater flexibility for local authorities to deliver in the short term.

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.

Fully funded by SG / Local Authorities so that fees are not a barrier to participation. The costs could be raised through other means or by diverting funds elsewhere.

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?

I think the Bill would help protect the environment through education of children as well as benefitting the economy by creating more jobs in the sector. I also think the benefits from increased physical activity will make children stronger and healthier, hopefully carrying forward through out their lives. Outdoor Learning / AT also brings different socio-economic groups of people together and helps break down barriers, which ultimately will help make a more inclusive and just society.

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)?

More detail regarding additional support and expectations for Local Authorities along with a timeline for delivery would be helpful.