

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).

A social enterprise providing employability and pre employability support for young people facing barriers to work.

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).

Inspiralba

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.

A residential outdoor experience can be the spark that ignited a lifelong interest in the outdoors. It can also be the place where a young person who struggles with the daily challenges of academic work in school can shine or where a young person to step beyond their comfort zone and feel proud for their efforts, learning lifelong lessons in resilience. These kinds of experiences are so important for our young people at a time where mental health challenges are increasing and confidence levels diminishing - the outdoors is a gateway to mental, physical and emotional health benefits which are often on our doorstep but unknown to many young people and adults due to lack of exposure and support to enjoy the incredible natural assets that Scotland has.

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 along with effective policy implementation to ensure local authorities have allocated (ring fenced) budget and guidance on how to ensure access to residential outdoor education for young people.

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.

Many fee paying schools already have incredible outdoor experiences built in to their curriculum, however if there are instances where they don't, they should be obliged to offer this as all young people deserve to benefit.

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.

With clarity on the obligation and allocated budget to implement.

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

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

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.)

At this time of escalating costs and increasing poverty it is essential that the burden of cost does not become a barrier for access.

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 reduction 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 a cost to the public sector but with an increase in numbers the cost of delivery would reduce slightly as numbers of courses throughout the year and numbers attending would ensure outdoor centres were well utilised and used efficiently.

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.

However this should be co produced with those in the sector to avoid a top down approach and being best practice to benefit all. There should however be an avoidance of over bureaucrasising the system which can deflect from time allocated to delivering quality outdoor experiences in an industry which already has stringent frameworks for expertise requirements and ratios etc.

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 a critical time for developing or losing confidence as well as forming interests (or losing interest) and the value of encouraging young people to explore the outdoors and their connection with the outdoors

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?

(and the challenges of the outdoors) can be a life changing experience encouraging positive life choices at a time when young people can be getting taken down a road of anti social or self destructive choices.

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.

It will be important to ensure access for people of all abilities with modifications or special arrangements to ensure all young people can benefit.

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

An allocation of budget to ensure cost is not a barrier for young people from low income or financially stretched households.

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?

Introducing young people to a live of the outdoors alongside education on the importance of respecting our natural environment can help to create a connection and value of the outdoor environment that can reduce environmental damage via littering, fire damage, etc. so including education on respect for the outdoor environment should be included in the outdoor experience content.

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)?

We work with many young people who are failed by the standard education system who can hugely benefit from outdoor experiences. Through experiences like an introduction to the outdoors and outdoor activities young people can gain confidence, self esteem and recognition of strengths and abilities that are often difficult to see in a classroom environment yet can be of huge value in the world of work, for life and wellbeing. For some young people this can create an introduction to a life changing experience which shapes their ongoing love of the outdoors or highlights their ability to shine, overcome barriers and recognise their capabilities which they didn't know they had.