

# 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.

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".)

*No Response*

Please select the category which best describes your organisation

Public sector body (Scottish/UK Government/Government agency, local authority, NDPB)

**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).**

Primary Teacher at a Primary School

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).

Ms Anne J McEwan

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.**

In my seventeen years of teaching, residential experiences with a focus on outdoor learning have been beneficial to all learners. The staff at our council run Dolphin House adapt all their programmes to suit learners with any Additional Support Needs. Learners from our Autism Support base classes take part, as do our learners who attend Additional Support Needs Schools. I feel that these experiences are a right of all learners in Scotland. It has become increasingly difficult to ask families to pay for these trips as the financial pressures continue to increase. Families who are not identifiable by their school meal or clothing grants are too embarrassed to ask for help, so they choose to keep the child off during the residential trip. We always support families with financial difficulties when we know they have them. Providing these opportunities for all is essential in fulfilling the goals of the Scottish Curriculum as well as meeting the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. Our children have the right to education. They have the right to an education which meets their needs and I believe outdoor residential opportunities should be core curriculum, and therefore come under all education should be free.

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 am afraid I can't help here.

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.**

Please see my first answer.

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.**

We know how to match the needs of our children with the opportunities available to them.

## 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.)**

I don't have in-depth knowledge here but I know that budget cuts at Local Authority level already leave us with less Teaching Assistants providing pupil support and I would worry that this would increase the pressure if funded at LA level.

## 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?

**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 can't comment as I do not know the wider implications financially other than those I have already mentioned.

## 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.**

We have always linked our activities carried out at Dolphin House with the CfE outcomes. I think that ensuring educational value would be an expectation.

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.**

It would be amazing if the age range was lowered slightly so it would encompass 11 to 16 year olds. Thus would ensure that if the funding was available to P7 learners, those with February birthdays or were underage placing requests would be included.

## 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.

In my experience, our outdoor centre is fully inclusive of all learners and their needs. Adaptations are made to include those with different diets, require medical care, treat learners who identify as LGBTQI+ with respect and compassion - it would have no negative impact.

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

If it is being run by the schools and offered to all learners regardless of means testing, then it will be fully inclusive. We always do everything we can to include all of our learners and this would not change.

## 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?

Yes. Increasing the skill sets required to care for our environment (they always cover sustainability and John Muir Bronze Award) increase confidence, teamwork, support a growth Mindset, increase independence, work with unfamiliar adults, problem solve, be creative etc - all which are strived for through our curriculum as well as in Developing Scotlands Young Workforce. By participating in outdoor residential experiences we are fostering global citizens.

## 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)?

As an educator who believes whole heartedly in equality, sustainability and the value of outdoor learning, this Bill will be life changing for our learners and remove the pressure on our families.