

# 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".)

Parent/carer

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

I am a parent, but also a qualified canoe/kayak coach who volunteers with my local scouts group and occasionally does some freelancing at outdoor centres.

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).

Janet Moxley

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 see the benefits of outdoor learning all the time through volunteering with Scouts. However, I am fortunate to live in a rural area, where the Scouts enjoy considerable support from local landowners which allows us to run regular camps at low cost. Not all children are in a position to join organisations such as Scouts (although Scouts would never turn a young person away because of their financial circumstances), and not all Scout groups are able to access sites for camping.

Scout land is a largely rural country, and engagement with the countryside is important to Scottish identity. The response to COVID showed that Scots need to be outdoors, but that in some cases, people do not have the skills to allow them to undertake outdoor activities such as camping and wild swimming in a safe and responsible way. Including outdoor education within the schools programme would help to ensure that young people have the skills and knowledge to access the outdoors safely. In addition, residential outdoor activities build confidence and team working, and can particularly benefit pupils who find the classroom environment and formal learning difficult.

Children from less affluent inner city areas stand to gain most from increased outdoor education provision, as they are less likely to be able to create informal adventures on their doorsteps and their families are less likely to own cars to transport them to rural areas. However, all children benefit from outdoor education, and stretching themselves in unfamiliar environments.

There is also a growing disconnect between people and the natural environment, which is shown by reducing knowledge of wild plants and animals. Outdoor education can help address this. Improving understanding on the richness and diversity of the natural world is vital if we are to create a sustainable Scotland.

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.

It would help if Scotland was independent and voted the Tories out. It is somewhat ironic that this bill is being proposed by a Tory MSP when it has been Tory austerity that has led to cuts in outdoor education across the UK.

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.**

Independent schools already seem able to provide much better outdoor education opportunities than state schools. While it could be worth ensuring that they have an obligation to continue to do this, I do not think that state funding needs to be directed at elite establishments such as Gordonstoun which are well able to provide excellent outdoor activity programmes without public assistance.

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

## 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.)**

Outdoor ed should be free for all pupils in publicly funded schools. It should not be means tested on only provided free to those on free school meals. Often there are families who just fail to meet this criteria who struggle to find extra money for these sorts of trips. Also some families just don't value outdoor education.

As stated previously I do not feel that independent schools need public funding for this purpose.

## 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.**

The Bill would increase costs on the education sector, but could potential reduce other costs if it results in increased respect for the natural environment or improved child wellbeing.

## 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

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.**

The lower end of this could be reduced to 11 as many primary schools offer residential outdoor education

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?

trips. By 14 there can be a lot of curriculum and exam pressure, and also some young people could benefit more from early intervention rather than waiting until they are 15 or 16.

## 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's important that outdoor ed is offered to people of all abilities and that providers are geared up to working with young people with disabilities as well as those without. It is also important that outdoor ed is offered in a way that respects cultural and religious practices.

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

*No Response*

## 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?

Enabling young people to spend more time outdoors should increase their awareness of the benefits of a healthy environment. increasing outdoor education would contribute to sustainable economic growth. Outdoor education can help young people understand the benefits of working together to overcome challenges.

## 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*