

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".)

Teacher/school employee

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

Over the past 10 years I have worked across a variety of outdoor learning settings including residential ones and now currently working in the Education sector as a Primary School Teacher.

Please select the category which best describes your organisation

No Response

Please choose one of the following:

I would like this response to be published anonymously

If you have requested anonymity or asked for your response not to be published, please give a reason (Note: your reason will not be published):

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).

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 believe that ALL children benefit from having the opportunity to experience learning about themselves in an environment that isn't typically normal for most pupils. The pandemic has particularly affected pupils' resilience and level of comfort with the outside world, having compulsory Residential Outdoor Education for all children can only develop children's resilience and connection with the outside world. In addition to this not every child thrives in a school environment, no matter how inclusive and diverse you make your classroom, some children learn best outside of the classroom and outside their normal education environment. Furthermore, there is drastic lack of understanding of the natural world and how we as a species are here to look after it. In this Climate Crisis, Residential Outdoor Education experiences may be the only chance for young people to form a meaningful connection to the natural world and therefore want to look after 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.

With legislation, there would be more scope to secure funding which is needed for those pupils/ schools who are not financially affluent to access Residential Outdoor Education experiences. Without legislation, many individuals and whole schools will not be able to afford to take part, further exacerbating the already growing poverty gap in Scotland. By poverty I am not just referring to financial poverty but social poverty too.

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.

Partially supportive

Please give reasons for your response.

I believe that most independent schools / other education establishments can afford to have these experiences without additional funding from the government, so they should not have as easy access to the pot of money. However, I am also aware that there might be individual circumstances that would meet a proposed 'threshold' for support, in which case an application process for those establishments which typically fall outwith the LA/ grant aided schools remit should be in place to ensure that the system is fair.

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?

Partially supportive

Please explain the reasons for your response.

The people in these positions already have a lot of work on their plate, and planning an annual residential trip will only add to their workload. Is there scope for specific positions to be created within LAs to help organise and co-ordinate for a group of schools across a particular area? A Residential Outdoor Education Liason Officer perhaps whose role is to bridge between providers and schools? I recognise this may be additional middle management but I know how full teacher's workloads are and I think having someone positioned in a LA or even within each school whose either whole role or part of their role is to make sure

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?

that every child has the opportunity to have a Residential Outdoor Experience will be key to making this Bill a success.

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.)

Ring fence funding.

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?

no overall change in costs

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 opposed

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

I believe that residential outdoor experiences should be provided in both primary and secondary schools. Sometimes by providing these experiences later on in a child's life (i.e. over the age of 14), that individual

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?

is already hugely disengaged with their learning. Early access can help with engagement earlier on and also improve their resilience and overall self confidence/ self worth.

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.

If this were to become law, there must be way for providers to show that they can cater to the needs of young people. Gender neutral bathrooms, opportunities to sleep alone and not in dorms, disability access and staff trained in BSL etc and meals which include options that are suitable for any intolerance (lactose/ gluten)/ preference (vegetarian/ vegan) or religious nature (halal etc).

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

Funding based on an application process dependent on socio-economic status.

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, most definitely. As I wrote earlier on, giving young people access to the outdoors creates a connection to nature that will instill values of sustainability.

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)?

The fact that spending time outside has been prescribed by doctors to patients is a key indicator that we need to be educating our young people the benefits of spending time in and caring for the environment, all whilst creating a connection to the outdoors which will hopefully lead to a better future for the planet.