

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

Representative organisation (trade union, professional association)

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).

ASTO is the umbrella body for UK Sail Training organisations that provide residential activities for young people on board large sailing vessels. ASTO and most of our 30 member organisations are charities. Three of our members operate in Scotland: Ocean Youth Trust Scotland, Swan Trust in Shetland and Gordonstoun 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).

ASTO (Association of Sail Training Organisations) Response by Lucy Grodie, General Manager

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 think this is an excellent proposal that will ensure that even more young people will benefit from the fantastic positive experiences provided by residential outdoor education, that can have a life long impact on young people. I would go further to say that young people should not just be given the opportunity but should be strongly encouraged or even mandated to take up the opportunity, as everyone would benefit. Often young people who are initially reluctant will gain the most from such an experience. Sail Training is an excellent type of outdoor learning; further benefits of Sail Training can be found on <https://uksailtraining.org/outcomes/> and <https://uksailtraining.org/sailtowellbeing/>

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 supportive of legislation as this will ensure that all young people benefit, not just those schools who see outdoor education as a nice extra. I hope that with this legislation in place the benefits of outdoor education will become better recognised. I also hope that similar legislation may be passed in the other nations in due course.

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.

I don't have a view on whether the requirement should extend to other establishments. However I believe that, even if not compulsory, other organisations such as youth organisations, groups that work with home educated, special needs and all other young people should be strongly encouraged to participate in residential outdoor education.

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 obligation should rest with education authorities and school managers, while also including the views of the teachers that know the young people best, and outdoor education advisers where possible. The choice of the type of residential should be suited to the young people taking part.

Funding

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

In some other way

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.)

To ensure provision the funding should be from the government to local authorities and grant aided schools. The money should be ring fenced and sufficient to provide five days residential for every young person within the scope of this proposal. A blended funding model should also be considered (parents/carers where they can afford it, supplemented by the government for those who can't). However this should not have an impact on what type of residential is chosen (i.e. the quality of provision should be more important than the cost) Providers should be paid the true cost of the experience, not an arbitrary fixed rate (bearing in mind that some charities will already have reduced the charge and supplemented it with their own fundraising)

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.

The wording of the law and the funding model chosen should be such that the providers of outdoor residential activities are properly remunerated for the service provided, and not incentivized to compete on unrealistic low prices.

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.

I agree that some sort of quality control is necessary and this should benefit well-run providers. However I am concerned this will add an extra burden of paperwork and possibly cost. I don't believe a specific inspection regime should be created for this but rather a formalisation of what already happens (i.e. centres to provide risk assessments, confirmation of insurance, confirmation of instructor qualifications etc) You could make use of existing systems such as Evolve or membership of umbrella bodies. The onus should be on the obligated organisation to ensure the provider they use is suitable and safe. We would not be opposed to having HMI Education inspectors involved, not in a paper generating role but as a means of disseminating best practice across Scotland.

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.

I believe this is an appropriate age range although you may want to line it up with secondary school age, i.e. 11 to 16 or year groups S1 to S4 to give young people the maximum opportunity to benefit and ensure no-one misses out.

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.

Lots of outdoor education providers are able to cater for disabled people. Sail Training organisations are experienced in tailoring the voyage to whoever wants to take part and will implement changes to the programme where necessary. Further details on accessible Sail Training vessels is on <https://uksailtraining.org/member-organisations/> ; other vessels would easily be able to make adaptations to the programme if needed. Sail Training vessels are welcoming to all, regardless of gender, race, religion or sexual orientation.

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

Government funding would ensure that provision is equitable and not dependent on economic factors.

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?

The proposal would have a positive impact on work to protect the environment and create a healthy and just society.
Young people taking part in outdoor residential are immersed in the natural world and one of the longer lasting outcomes is their appreciation for nature and the need to protect it. Furthermore, taking part in outdoor residential gives young people the life skills needed for a just society, in that they learn to make new friends, get on well with people from different backgrounds, learn to communicate and work in a

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?

team. Outdoor residentials have led to better relationships between young people, their peers and their teachers which in the long term leads to people making a positive contribution to 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)?

I think this is an excellent proposal that will benefit young people for years to come. Positive outcomes from outdoor residentials include confidence, a can do attitude, increased aspiration and healthier young people in body and mind. Some outcomes of Sail Training voyages are summarised on our website www.uksailtraining.org/outcomes. Further Sail Training research has been forwarded by email.

ASTO therefore believes that the proposal to require every secondary school child in Scotland to experience a week long outdoor learning residential is a forward thinking practical initiative that will make Scotland's children healthier, happier and more able to become productive members of society.