

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

I am a Chemistry teacher but also am the John Muir coordinator for my school and am a member for Sail Training Shetland, a charity which organising and helps to fund sailing opportunities for young people.

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).

Amy Sandison

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 am fully supportive of this bill as I think it is something that the young people of Scotland need and deserve. I think it needs to be legislated for to ensure that there is equity across Scotland. At the moment there is a huge disparity in opportunities for outdoor education in Scotland. The bill needs to be inclusive of

Q1. Which of the following best expresses your view of the proposed Bill? (Please note that this question is compulsory.)

all backgrounds and abilities. The bill is an excellent proposal that will ensure that the young people of Scotland will all benefit from the experiences outdoor education can bring.

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 think the legislation is needed to ensure that education authorities are required to provide the opportunities to young people ensuring more equity. Schools should not see it as an extra but it instead to be integral to education. The benefits of outdoor education need to be better recognised!

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.

Independent schools tend to already provide more outdoor education opportunities for young people and I think it doesn't need to be part of this bill. Other youth organisations for those not in full time education or those being supported due to special educational needs should be encouraged even if not mandated to participate in the residential outdoor education as well.

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.

I think it has to be the education authorities and school managers that are responsible for this but they need to be resourced and equipped to deal with the extra workload it would entail.

Funding

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

By parents/carers meeting food and accommodation costs, and all other costs being met from public funds

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 think there should be a mix of the above options. There could be some cost to parents - I think this will

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

ensure that there is some responsibility from families but I think those who cannot afford to support their children, those on free school meals for example should be supported.

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.

There will have to be more outdoor staff employed to deliver these days. If outside agencies are used this will be welcome increased business for them but would be an additional cost for local authorities. I think asking parents to pay for some of the cost will help support the schools and is not unreasonable given the opportunity. The outside agencies carrying out the residential should have a specific programme to schools hiring out their venues to make it most cost effective for these big groups. One example of a outside agency is Sail training - Sail Training Organisations such as we have in Shetland, Sail Training Shetland, offer residential on sail training vessels which provide young people with all the usual outdoor experiences as well as the amazing opportunity to travel. Currently these opportunities happen as a result of grants fundraising and some of the cost being supported by parents. Sail training should be included as an option for residential outdoor education in this bill as it is something that it already happening but this bill would give it more support.

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.

Quality control is needed but I think there needs to be extreme care taken to limit the burden of paperwork and cost to it. As is already done for outdoor days there should be appropriate risk assessments carried out, insurances and instructors should be appropriately qualified. I don't think there should be a specific inspection regime. The responsibility should be on the organisation providing the residential to ensure the experience they are providing is suitable and safe.

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

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?

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

It might be better to include all the ages of secondary school so that this experience can occur at any point but I agree it should be before young people are 16 as this is leaving school age.

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.

Particular groups may feel that they cannot participate in residential outdoor education as their peers can but there are already organisations providing experiences for those with disabilities and any additional support needs. There would need to be flexibility in programmes to cater for these individuals. In Shetland for example there is a boat which is used by Ability Shetland, those in wheelchairs or with any mobility issues can access the boat - <https://www.abilityshetland.com/m.v-wootton-lass>

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 all can access the provision along with those who can afford it contributing to some of the cost.

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?

I think this proposal is likely to remind young people of the importance of the environment and protecting it. Exposing young people more to the outdoors ensures they are more aware of the human impact and the repercussions of this on the environment in the short and long term. Immersing young people in the outdoors gives them a stronger appreciation for its importance and this will be carried on to future generations. It will also allow young people to develop more positive relationships with others, their peers and teachers as they work together they will also improve communication and teamwork skills. There are so many ways in which outdoor education can contribute to young people coming out of education more rounded and resilient individuals.

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 would like to add that this bill would be an excellent addition to education in Scotland. I would like to mention the work that Sail Training has already done in residential outdoor education and the benefits of this have already been seen here in Shetland. <https://www.sailtrainingshetland.com>. - It would be absolutely brilliant if charities like this got more support through this bill and were able to offer the opportunity to more young people.

I would also like to add that as a teacher there will need to be more support for education providers as teachers are already under a huge amount of strain already to provide the best education we can with all the constant changes to curriculum and leadership. This bill needs to be really carefully considered when it comes to legislation to ensure that it doesn't add to the burden on education providers but enhancing their teaching as it will enhance education of young people.

I would also like to thank you for proposing this bill at a very pertinent time in education.