

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

Third sector (charitable, campaigning, social enterprise, voluntary, non-profit)

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).

This is a joint submission on behalf of the Swan Trust and Sail Training Shetland. Both organisations are registered Scottish charities, The SWan Trust own and operates the former Fifie herring drifter, SWan , built in Lerwick, Shetland in 1900. In 1995 following restoration Swan became and sail training and charter vessel, Sail Training Shetland annually places young people aged 15 - 25 in Tall Ships Races and similar events. Swan is currently participating in the Tall Ships Races 2022 with two group of 10 trainees from placed by Sail Training Shetland.

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).

Peter Campbell, on behalf of The Swan Trust and Sail Training Shetland

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.

Residential Outdoor Education, including Sail Training, is an excellent way in which to achieve the aims of the proposed bill and a proven way to achieve high quality outdoor learning

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.

Yes, Without legislation it is highly probable that not all young people will be ensured of the opportunity to participate in Residential Outdoor Education

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.

Fully supportive that it be limited to local authorities and grant aided schools, but independents and other education providers should be encouraged to participate in Residential Outdoor Education, including Sail Training.

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.

As providers of the school curriculum, they should have provision included as one of their responsibilities, but the requirement to provide Residential Outdoor Education requires to be enshrined in law, if not the aims of the bill will not be met and finance, unless specifically ring fenced for Residential Outdoor Education, then these funds will probably be diverted to other curricular areas.

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.)

As stated in response to 4 above, the funding must be ring fenced and provided in full by Scottish Government. Any combination of government funds and parental contributions would result in some pupils being disadvantaged

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 annual sum to fully fund provision is not excessive in terms of the overall schools' budget. Savings on other allocations across the block grant could provide the necessary funding, but if the health and wellbeing of young people recovering from the impact of Covid, is anything more than political rhetoric, then new money should be provided to meet the cost. It is important that providers are paid realistic sums which cover their costs and that they are not encouraged to offer provision below true cost price or the outcome will be that as providers fall by the wayside due to financial pressures, no new providers will come forward unless the real cost of provision can be met.

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.

While there is a role for HMIs to provide quality assurance, a more significant and important role for them would be to provide an overview of best practice which they could disseminate across the country. It is also essential that providers produce comprehensive risk assessment, have appropriate and comprehensive insurance and that instructors are suitably qualified in the appropriate disciplines. This would apply to sail training where MCA or RYA qualifications are currently accepted.

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?

Fully supportive

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

While fully supportive consideration could be given to the use of year groups rather than age .groups

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.

Most, if not all providers could probably make adaptations to their facilities to ensure that they are more disabled friendly.

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

The only way in which equity of provision can be ensured is to have the proposals of the bill fully funded by the Scottish Government. If not, there will be a range of provision which could result in a race to the bottom

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 help not only to increase an awareness of the natural environment among young people, leading to an understanding of the need to protect and enhance the natural environment. It would create an understanding of the need for sustainability while improving the mental and physical health of young people and through the interaction of individuals while initially in a residential situation, help to contribute to an understanding of diversity and the benefits of a just society. From the experiences of individual whom have participated in sail training it is clear from their individual comments that the experience provided through residential outdoor education has enhanced their personal lives. This is a view which is echoed by their parents who have noted significant improvements in their child's attitudes, commitment and interactions with others from having experienced living and working as part of a group where cooperation within the group is essential

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)?

It is essential that the payments which will be made to providers reflect the true cost of service provision. If the mental health and wellbeing of our young people are to receive the attention which has been suggested is required to overcome the impact of Covid on our youth and establish positive practices for the future, the bill needs to move through to become law so that Residential Outdoor Education becomes a funded part of the secondary school education. In establishing a definition of Residential Outdoor Education, it is essential that sail training is included within that definition so that the very positive benefits which have been identified in academic studies of sail training can become available to our young people.