

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 teacher in a school in a very low SIMD catchment area.

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).

Eleanor Houghton

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.

Very few of the young people I teach have access to this type of experience. The benefits are innumerable but I will focus on my area of expertise. As a teacher of English and Scots, I know that a lack of general knowledge is one of the main barriers to literacy, especially for understanding secondary school-level texts (even so-called "straightforward" texts at SQA National 3 and 4 level), for both written and film/spoken language. A broader range of life experience, available to all, would have enormous benefits for young people's literacy and thinking skills, as well as their health, confidence and aspirations. Currently, at my school, a specific cohort of young people with certain social or developmental barriers to learning, do have regular access to outdoor learning on day trips and it makes a big difference to their relationships for learning and readiness to learn. Imagine the benefits if all young people could have this opportunity.

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, I believe legislation is needed in order for provision to become universal and free at the point of access for young people. Funding should be central. LA budgets are subject to various pressures and changes and devolving the choice of providing access to local level would not guarantee universal provision.

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.

Fees cover all other aspects of independent schooling and there is therefore no logic to funding one specific area. It is a generalisation to say that young people attending such schools already have access to a wider range of experience simply because most of their parents have more wealth; however there is truth in it.

I can see a certain benefit to including fee-paying schools, if they attended residential courses alongside state-funded schools, as this would provide the fee-paying learners an opportunity to engage with young people from different backgrounds. Equally, those from less wealthy backgrounds could discover common ground by working together with those whom they might ordinarily consider unapproachable. This could lead to greater confidence in striving for social mobility. (I have seen this happen through taking my economically disadvantaged learners to debating competitions at fee-paying schools.)

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.

A ring-fenced additional budget should be provided.

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.)

See previous responses.

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.

Obviously it would increase public spending but I believe it would be an effective way of helping to close the attainment gap and lead to long-term societal and economic benefits. Of course, no education policy, in isolation, can eliminate the attainment gap, but current spending is not addressing entrenched lack of access to wider experience for economically deprived young people. (However, I am no expert on public finances and cannot offer an opinion on cost-effective delivery.)

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

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.

Yes, it should be done by HMIE, who must ensure rigorously safe and high standards. Providers should be licensed by HMIE.

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

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.

See previous response about benefits for the age range I teach.

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.

No Response

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

Universal provision, free at point of access. Clearly, it must be free for those who cannot pay. Means testing is expensive to administer and would leave those who are on or close to the cut-off point struggling.

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?

Surely it would benefit all these areas, particularly the promotion of a strong, healthy and just society, as previously mentioned.

All outdoor learning takes place in the context of the physical environment and provides learning opportunities about eco issues. Young people who grow up in urban communities often do not see the relevance of environmental concerns and it is difficult to engage them in such matters. This policy would address that.

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