

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

Trip leader. Witness to merits and impacts on pupil wellbeing during and post trip - social and academic

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).

Katie Hunter

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 agree, as a teacher practitioner and Scottish citizen, with the John Muir submission, that: The John Muir Trust broadly supports this Bill to ensure that young people have the opportunity to experience residential outdoor education because we believe outdoor residential centres:

- can help inspire people about the benefits of wild places and showcase how wild places tackle the climate crisis and reverse biodiversity loss (including Learning for Sustainability, Sustainable Development Goals)
- offer experiences to participants and staff that contribute to learning and teaching in Scotland that help create a fairer and more equitable world (including Scottish Attainment Challenge, Developing the Young Workforce)
- often provide significant employment opportunities and career pathways for people living and working in rural communities.

We recognise risks to successfully implementing the provisions of the Bill, primarily risks of funding and capacity, therefore we believe there is a need to carefully consider:

- Capacity of Education Authorities to implement duty
- Number of centres available to cope with increased demand created
- Availability of staff to deliver residential Outdoor Education
- Confidence from Education Authorities and teachers that the Bill will provide quality and impactful education experiences for young people.

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.

Also through inspection and local authority data collection

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)

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 a teacher I agree in routing this through the authorities.

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.)

This option is my first instinct as a parent and teacher. I see a mixed funding model best suited, including free places for free school meals pupils and a lot for headteachers to also extend provision to others in short term need also. Scottish government funding should be incorporated into the model of the local authorities are not sufficiently financed to make sufficient provision

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.

I agree with the John Muir trust about the benefits of the financial impacts to rural communities: A Bill would need to ensure equal opportunity across Scotland. Alongside this would be the need for a quality framework that sets a high standard across the country.

We ask if there is a role for resourcing between national and local government, and business sector investing in young peoples' skills development? Can other, sustainable funding models be explored too? Given we recognise that we have a lack of resources in outdoor education centres this Bill helpfully highlights a need to review how we use Outdoor Learning as an approach to learning across the whole education and learning sector and including residential is one key component to this.

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.

I agree with John Muir that: Residential outdoor education needs to continually demonstrate good practice operating within a quality framework to ensure that activity delivers for Scotland. We would support a Schools Inspection HMIE role in this, as well as clear connections with GTCS standards required to teach in Scotland and Initial Teacher Education (teacher training) standards.

In addition, we believe the Bill should include continued research on the long-term impact of residential outdoor education (e.g. Learning Away: Brilliant Residential) to best understand impacts on:

- participants – health, wellbeing, attainment, positive destinations, pathways, nature connectedness
- education practitioners – confidence, wellbeing, professional development
- communities – such as employment, promotion of rights and responsibilities / outdoor access - our environment – environmental impact analysis, climate nature-based action, carbon footprint assessments.

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.

10-15

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.

I do not wish the premise of the Bill to be diluted with opt outs, but John Muir suggests: Provision should also be made for alternatives such as peripatetic non-residential outdoor education provision that meets a quality framework. The Trust is aware of this practice already working across a number of education authorities.

We also ask that the Bill considers support for broader Outdoor Learning to provide an increased equity of provision. This would include a commitment to invest in training our teachers.

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

See last answer

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?

Certainly. I can think of no better development in Scottish education. I have nearly 20 years teaching experience and have long held that a proposal such as this would have more powerful short term and long term impacts for both our young people and the country as a whole than any other educational initiative. I can think of few better uses of government funds.

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)?

John Muir says Research is needed to ensure understanding of the capacity of beds needed to meet any new law, and that these are available and accessible (physically and geographically) to all young people across Scotland.

*beds. - but does this include tents?