

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".)

Parent/carer

Please select the category which best describes your organisation

No Response

Please choose one of the following:

I would like this response to be published anonymously

If you have requested anonymity or asked for your response not to be published, please give a reason (Note: your reason will not be published):

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).

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

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

Please explain the reasons for your response.

As a child I went regularly every year on a school trip from primary school right through to secondary on residential trips. This was within school time. Now as a mother of three young children who are either denied this opportunity or it's limited to one p7 trip and then out of school trips in academy IF they even run is both sad and shocking, especially when you compare it to the rest of the UK where in England residential trips are still happening far more frequently. The benefits, rewards, developmental milestones, the mental and physical benefits of away trips for all children of all ages can not be understated. In a world post covid where the effects have been so detrimental on childrens mental and physical health, where confidence and self esteem has been shattered these trips are crucial in building a child up and giving them skills for life and encouraging them and showing them they can achieve anything. I am already deeply saddened as said that Scotland is currently so limited in what it offers children residentially and that it's behind compared to schools across the country but I think it does our children a massive disservice to deny them the opportunities trips like these poses. There was a reason we had so many centres and it worked before. Sadly the political nonsense, interfering in school systems and and over bearing Health and Safety policies ground these trips into ground to the detriment of generations of children.

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'm not sure, if it meant that schools and governments couldn't back down, change their mind or deny children trips then yes it needs legislation. If it can just be put into the schools curriculum without legislation then great though my worry is it could just as easily be removed again in the future. I don't really know enough politically for the reasons or difference between putting it through as legislation or getting it done without?

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 often set their own curriculum. Here they would have an option to follow suit with mainstream schools should they wish. Often private schools already still cater or residential trips already. Though I suppose I'm not sure what the difference is if you also included them and why that couldn't happen also? That being said I think the children most at need of these trips are children from local authority schools and they would be my priority and the first groups to look at for making this happen, hence my support. That doesn't mean they shouldn't be included somehow moving forwards.

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.

This happened previously when I was a child and all trips were educational and linked to schools and their learning. Schools know what works for them and I'd be keen for them to make the decisions re trips supported by local councils.

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'm not naive, in a wonderful world I'd say in full by Scottish government but there's a reason these trips stopped in the first place as the money just isn't there. Yes it would also be great to say every parent pays for their own child and just those in need (benefits, low income etc) get paid by the authority BUT we are in a cost of living crisis and every family is squeezed and as normal those on low income receive help, those on high wages do fine and it's always those in the middle who actually get no help who are the worst off. I think if it could be spread between parents, public body's and fundraising then it would allow more people to attend.

Don't get me wrong if some money could be ring fenced or allocated yearly for trips that would be great to support these happening and cover some of the costs ie the running of the centres so the fees are less to attend that would be amazing, but we also can't expect government to pay for it all as the money just isn't there and there are also lots of other things schools are having to balance the books on and that money needs spending on educationally.

However if it was shared between government and parents with still help for low income and an element of fundraising throughout the year too hopefully costs can be met.

If the centres were staffed and ran by authorities then there is an element of keeping costs lower perhaps and then if in use by all schools all the times it makes them financially sound if parents cover accommodation and food and perhaps travel but the trip itself is then subsidised or costs kept low or the trip/activities are free at point of use so long as accommodation and feed etc has been paid.

As much as I'd like to tick the box that says get the government to pay!!

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 if it's subsidised there will be an increase to whoever is funding it. Also to parents paying but there will also be an increase in funds and spending in the local economy surrounding the trip and also more jobs created to run the trips and activity centres, more business for coaches taking kids to centres etc so there are positives to the increase in costs too.

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 always think these things should be linked back to the school and it's learning opportunities and outcomes.

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 opposed

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

I honestly believe this opportunity needs to be available to all children of all ages.

Primary should have more day trips and as they head to p5/7 should be having at least a one night overnight stay extending to 2/3 in p6 and 4/5 nights in P7 even the younger children we used to have a sleepover within the schools as an early experience. Whilst I think it's a start to target the older children it's a disservice and too late by that stage to tackle some of the early years developmental stages missed by not also taking primary children on trips

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 don't see how trips can't be made inclusive to all. They always were. Again we go too far. The trips are open to everyone or they aren't it's really as simple as that. We have overcomplicated life.

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

As mentioned by spreading costs, fundraising, covering those that need it from public funds. By making trips varying lengths and costs so perhaps some can still get a smaller one/two night trips if it allows more to go instead of a week. By utilising provisions already out there. Look to Sport Aberdeen and Adventure Aberdeen as examples of what can be done and how they can be tied into

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?

Yes and only positively

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