

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".)

Professional with experience in a relevant subject

Optional: You may wish to explain briefly what expertise or experience you have that is relevant to the subject-matter of the consultation

Retired teacher of History and Outdoor Education

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).

Gordon Anderson

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/Outdoor Learning is an extremely efficient way to deliver and enhance the curriculum providing an exciting approach to learning for all young people, many of whom are experiential learners, including those on the Autism Spectrum. A canoe trip along a canal or a hike along a Drove Road, stimulates interest in many subjects - History, Geography, Technology, Science, Maths - as well as providing valuable experiences for Creative Writing and Art projects. The benefits are limited only by the imagination of teacher and learner

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.

Legislation is required to ensure those delivering the activities suitably qualified and are adequately protected with insurance

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 use many activities eg sports and residential experiences as marketing tools to attract prospective parents. They should not be compensated by central and local government for taking that approach

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.

Residential Outdoor Education should be seen as an essential component of the school curriculum similar to provision of other subjects eg Maths English

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

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

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.)

The Scottish Government is best placed to ensure equality of provision throughout Scotland. Funding to local authorities should be ring fenced to prevent funds being siphoned off for other projects

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?

a significant 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.

We are investing in our young people who deserve adequately funded education projects that enhance their learning experiences. Many parents/carers cannot/will not provide resources to provide those experiences

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.

The quality framework should be applied to the same degree of quality as with other subjects

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 opposed

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

Residential outdoor education and learning experiences should be provided as soon as possible in a young person's school career and should take place at least on a yearly basis providing experiences at different times of the year. It is the length of the provision that is important ie two days for the youngest,

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?

increasing for older children. Adolescents are less liable to participate in new projects and drop out of school activities. Starting in primary school gives an initial grounding before the teenage years kick in

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.

A truly child centred approach to learning with concerns for the individual should limit the difficulties associated with the above

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

Ensure that the experiences are free at the point of contact for all young people

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 provision of a well thought out outdoor learning syllabus/curriculum should raise these topics with participants. Participants should be encouraged to engage with philosophy of engaging with the outdoors

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)?

As a teacher, now retired, I was involved in the provision of outdoor education and outdoor learning facilities, initially at a school serving an area of extreme multiple deprivation, and latterly at a Special Needs school providing mainly for young people on the Autism Spectrum. At both schools OE was on the

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curriculum for all learners. That programme was enhanced by comprehensive Residential Experiences programmes at outdoor centres in Scotland and the North of England. In addition and where funds could be raised, trips to Europe and the US were provided. The ski programme for ASD children was particularly successful. They were introduced to skiing at Midlothian Snowsports during curricular OE. An extra-curricular group then met on Friday afternoons during term time at the same venue. Day trips to the indoor snow facility at SnoFactor took place once a term. A weekend trip to Lagganlia OE Centre was organised when snow was available. To complete the full range of ski experience, trips to European and US resorts took place. That one comprehensive programme helped the young people develop and mature. Self confidence and self esteem were enhanced. Skiing was included in their Duke of Edinburgh's Award courses. Parents saw their children participate in an extensive physical activity programme which seemed an impossibility given the children's diagnosis of Autism Spectrum Disorder. The ski programme also saw teaching and support staff access personal ski qualifications to participate and promote the programme.

Curricular OE introduced learners to canoe/kayak, hill and coast walking, dinghy sailing, and orienteering. Senior pupils participated in the Duke of Edinburgh's Award, involving practice and qualifying expeditions with overnight camps. All secondary and senior primary learners were expected to participate in at least one Residential experience per year at an OE centre in Scotland and the North of England. Initially these were taster courses with learners experiencing a variety of activities, latterly, with the young people having already gained experience of a number of outdoor pursuits, they could chose to concentrate on one particular activity over the week.

The OE and Residential Experiences programmes were successful in enhancing self confidence, self esteem, and individual and group social skills and teamwork.

The disappointing aspect of the programmes at both schools was the fact that, to pay for these successful programmes, charities had to be established with many begging letters sent to a variety of philanthropic trusts and organisations yearly. Many of those organisations refused to consider our requests on the grounds that school activities should be paid for by the statutorily authority, a point of view I and many others can have no argument with.