

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

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

From my own personal experience of 2 weeks outward bound when I was in school and the challenges that my son faced when he found high school too difficult and overwhelming to attend. He had an opportunity to access outdoor education and it was transformative.

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

Please explain the reasons for your response.

I had an opportunity to experience 2 weeks of hill walking, camping, canoeing and sailing. I probably would not have chosen to try these things on my own and it was a good learning experience for us all. We were no longer channelled into which marks we got but were able to progress and learn new skills and confidence. I still go hillwalking and enjoy sailing in the summer months. My son struggled attending school and he loved the opportunity to be in an outdoor setting and within nature. He felt comfortable and thrived there - he was able to join in with the challenges of the day and had a better time with his peers. Some of my son's friends have been through the care system and have never been out into the countryside - never seen a cow or horse in a field or stood near one. For some young people, they only know the life they currently live and sometimes that is not a good life for them depending on the family circumstances. They cope but they are not able to envision a different life for themselves in the future. Outdoor Residential Education gives them an opportunity to be away from their current circumstances but also to challenge themselves, build confidence, resilience and team working. These are important skills for all young people but more so for those from disadvantaged backgrounds.

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 do. I think it is important that it should include that schools are provided with an adequate budget to ensure that all young people have the opportunity.

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.

Partially opposed

Please give reasons for your response.

Some families really struggle financially for their children to attend independent schools or receive bursaries for a variety of reasons. I think an opportunity for outdoor residential experience is a great leveller as well as providing an opportunity for young people to mix with those from different backgrounds.

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.

The young people are already within their remit to provide an education and an outdoor residential experience is an extension to what already exists.

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.)

I believe that it should be funded in full by the Scottish Government. I worry that if budgets were tight with local authorities that it would become less of a priority to provide a fully rounded experience and that the intention and experience would be diluted by funding issues. I think if you ask parents/carers to help with costs, then you may marginalise those who would benefit most. There are some parents/carers who do not apply for financial support for school meals etc as the process is so complicated and others may earn just above the qualifying criteria but are still struggling financially. Obviously it would be great if businesses could help with funding or meeting some of the costs but that should be a bonus rather than a goal for funding.

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 something like this has to have funding but there are times when you have to consider the impact and the benefits before the costs. This would mean that the government may have to make decisions elsewhere in their budgets to prioritise this. For providers of residential outdoor education, there would be benefits for them not only an increase in income but a more stable income source. This would filter through to their local community in terms of staff for catering, cleaning, maintenance etc.

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.

Logically, there has to be a quality framework for the provision of outdoor centres. Obviously HMIE are the best placed to assess and set standards for the activities and the standards of welfare of the young people in their care. I think it should be statutory and part of the Bill.

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.

I think it is a better age 12 - 16 as they are considered more mature and responsible as they have made the transition from primary to high school.

However, there may be occasions when a slightly younger age 10 - 11 would benefit - particularly those who may be having difficulty within the school or home environment. It may be that an opportunity to do something different could be a turning point for them.

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.

As with society in general, it would be a case of having to adapt some programmes to accommodate as much as possible the needs for the various groups but remain inclusive for everyone. I think schools are already pretty good at dealing with many of the above but if it goes forward; it might be helpful for some young people to have some input in how to make it better for all.

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

The only way to do this fairly is for the Scottish Government to allocate an amount to cover the costs for each individual young person. This could be allocated to the schools once a programme has been decided and agreed with any of the approved Residential Outdoor Education providers.

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?

Wherever you wish to increase the number of people being outdoors, there will always be an impact on the environment. We are getting better at teaching young people about protecting your local environment and it would be an important learning experience for those whose backgrounds are based on just struggling to survive. I think to see the projects in action and for the young people to understand how

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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?

much they can impact but can also address the problems and so enhance the environment, and do it in a sustainable manner is enormously helpful towards building a more robust and more consciously aware society for the future.

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)?

Over the years, we have reigned in our children from playing in the streets, in the parks and kept them closer to home. Many do not have anywhere to play or congregate safely in their area. Many only experience the countryside when passing by in a car or train or viewing a screen. If you have ever had the privilege and pleasure of stepping off a bus or car after having left the cities and towns behind, you don't forget the first smells of fresh air nor the peace of traffic noises silenced and instead hear the different noises of the woods, running streams, birds etc. Every young person should have that opportunity and they can make a choice to embrace it fully and make it part of their future or have that experience as a memory which will last a lifetime.