

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.

on behalf of an organisation

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".)

No Response

Please select the category which best describes your organisation

Public sector body (Scottish/UK Government/Government agency, local authority, NDPB)

Optional: You may wish to explain briefly what the organisation does, its experience and expertise in the subject-matter of the consultation, and how the view expressed in the response was arrived at (e.g. whether it is the view of particular office-holders or has been approved by the membership as a whole).

sportscotland is the national agency for sport in Scotland. Our vision is an active Scotland where everyone benefits from sport. As the national agency for sport our role is to make sure sport plays its part in a thriving Scotland. We do this by influencing, informing and investing in the organisations and people who deliver sport and physical activity. We have an important part to play alongside other agencies to deliver an active Scotland where more people are more active more often. We deliver from bases across Scotland and operate two national training centres, which provide quality, affordable and appropriate residential and sporting facilities for people to develop in sport. While their primary role is to develop the skills of instructors, coaches, leaders and national squads, the centres also offer a range of courses for individuals, clubs and schools.

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).

sportscotland

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.

We are fully supportive, in principle, and understand the value that this brings to school aged children from a variety of backgrounds.

While the proposed Bill would offer a guarantee, any provision of residential outdoor education must complement existing and current local more continuous outdoor education experiences. Residential learning must be supported and integrated with long-term continuous local learning and services.

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 would support a national approach and/or ambition. A fully inclusive approach would need to include all children and young people, for example, children with protected characteristics, care experienced, children living in and experiencing poverty. Only then may legislation be required.

There are other ways to influence the implementation of residential experiences. Schools have varying needs. This should be considered as opposed to a blanket approach. Investing in experiences and giving schools the autonomy would give flexibility and allow those that know the children the chance to make the decisions to best meet their needs.

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 supportive

Please give reasons for your response.

While we are unsure of the legislative reach to independent schools or influence of Scottish Government on their curriculum, we believe all children should at least be considered within the scope of the Bill and be included in the requirement of any legislation.

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.

Obligation to ensure that residential outdoor education is provided should sit with local authorities and delegated to school Heads.

However, additional capacity may be required at management level to implement any such obligation. The current financial climate is placing unprecedented pressures across all sectors, particularly at local

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?

authority level. There is likely to be limited capacity with significant investment required to re-establish this sector, where there will be a skills gap.

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.)

Residential outdoor education experiences should be funded by Scottish Government. Scottish Government is best placed to consider the most appropriate mechanism for such funding. Core curriculum links should be evidenced to support investment and quality of provision.

There are significant pressures on local authority budgets and the current economic climate is placing additional and considerable pressure on household budgets. To be fully inclusive, all costs will need to be covered with new financial resources.

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.

We take a different interpretation to this question. Potential funding for residential outdoor education would support Scottish Government strategy, support the Active Scotland Outcomes Framework, create jobs in rural communities, and create jobs in the impacted sector.

Changing the duration of the residential and requirement for overnight accommodation could reduce costs and still have the potential to deliver quality outdoor education. This could also provide an opportunity to limit the environmental impact of travel and associated costs if provision is local. However, we are fully aware that changing the duration of a residential and requirement for overnight stay could potentially diminish the experience and not achieve the intended value of the residential experience.

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.

This is a critical component and should be built into HMIE care inspectorate. There are existing quality frameworks to support safety and quality of experiences, but also quality of learning and links to core curriculum. This should be considered in the development of any future quality framework.

In relation to outdoor centres, many residential outdoor centres have closed due to local financial pressures. There are far fewer available and the private/commercial sector has partly stepped in. There is a need to assess and consider the capacity of infrastructure required and quality/standard of facilities, as well as instruction. Consideration must also be given to whether any new centres are required and/or upgrading of existing centres is required and how this will be paid for.

Furthermore, there is the potential opportunity to consider how centres owned by independent schools or scout / guide associations could also be used in a collaborative way. Some local authorities travel significant distances to the centres they use – consideration should be given to the development of guidance to minimum/maximum distance, travel, cost, mode of travel, and time taken.

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.

Our experience of working with children and young people across a range of age groups through from P6-S6 suggests that a wider age range, including upper primary, perhaps offers more options at local authority or school level decision making. For P6-S3, focus is largely on independence, confidence, resilience, and developing relationships. For S4-6, focus is mainly on leadership, personal development and confidence.

This wider age range may be more appropriate given the teacher/ pupil dynamic in primary education, compared to the multiple teacher model in secondary. There is also potential for greater disruption in secondary, however, there is scope and the opportunity to align this with awards such as the Duke of Edinburgh and leadership awards/ training.

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.

To fully understand this, a comprehensive Equality Impact Assessment (EQIA) is required, along with consultation with children and young people aligned to UNCRC Rights of the Child.

Approaches that could avoid negative impacts on particular people could include:

- Building a case and ambition that positively impacts these agendas
- Creating educational and growth experiences that has equality at its centre
- 'Personal and Social' development
- Opportunity to broaden understanding on these agendas
- Training and support for sector delivery

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

Equity of provision for all could be ensured with full funding from Scottish Government to cover costs, particularly for children with additional support needs. This should link to a quality framework and build on the existing infrastructure and provision already in place (fantastic centres currently exist).

The purpose of the legislation would be to remove the barriers that currently exist. The biggest challenge with the legislation is how you ensure equality across characteristics.

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 proposal could have a positive impact, enabling children and young people to learn more about the environment, to contribute to physical activity levels through outdoor learning (by nature of moving outdoors), and directly, to physical activity levels by providing opportunities to participate in sport and physical activities. This also introduces children and young people to new activities, which they could then continue or take up in adulthood.

Sport plays an important role in our communities, bringing people together, and contributing to a sense of local belonging and inclusion. Scottish Government through the Active Scotland Outcomes Framework aims to support well-being and resilience in communities through physical activity and sport. Physical activity can be a means to develop wider social outcomes in communities, for example education, employment, and crime related outcomes.

The legislation would ensure all people experience activities in an outdoor setting and in return increase awareness and understanding. This will have a direct impact on our sense of belonging, collective contributions and impact on the environment.

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