

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

Third sector (charitable, campaigning, social enterprise, voluntary, non-profit)

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).

This response includes the views of the CEO of the Council for Learning Outside the Classroom, <https://www.lotc.org.uk/about/> developed in consultation with colleagues.

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).

Dr Anne Hunt, CEO, Council for Learning Outside the Classroom

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.

• The Council for Learning Outside the Classroom (CLOtC) is a registered charity existing to champion learning outside the classroom, (LOtC) including residential visits such as those in the proposed bill. We believe that EVERY child should be given the opportunity to experience life and lessons beyond the classroom walls as a regular part of growing up. These experiences expand the horizons of young people, opening their eyes to the wonders of areas such as art, heritage, culture, adventure and the natural world. We ensure that more young people have access to these life changing educational experiences by providing support on the ground, facilitating the sharing of best practice and promoting the benefits of LOtC in raising attainment and aspirations and improving engagement with school and learning.

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 as this will provide funding security that will ensure the long term sustainability of this vital work and will protect it from the vulnerabilities that would exist if it were left in the Local Authority sphere.

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.

The proposal would be stronger, and in line with our charitable purpose, if it applied to every child in the age range selected. However, if a "ceiling" is required, that provided by limiting to LA and Grant Aided schools would appear fair and easy to apply for all. Care should be taken that this does not exclude those not able to attend school, other under-represented or under-served groups, such as those engaging via "virtual" schools.

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 obligation should fall on Education authorities via their staff in the schools themselves (and managers in grant aided schools) as they are best placed to understand the needs of their groups of children and young people and the best way of ensuring equity in engagement and participation.

Funding

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

In some other way

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.)

A 'blended' approach perhaps utilising some kind of means testing may offer a realistic solution, though ultimately the cost will be relatively low and will have a high Social Return on Investment (SROI). Scottish Outdoor Education Centres commissioned an independent SROI study on their work which gave a figure of 11:1. That is, every £1 spent on residential visits to outdoor education centres was shown to save £11 public spending elsewhere. This shows exceptional value for money and if at all possible the answer here should be very simply "a. By Scottish Government" for this reason.

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.

Ensuring universal, high-quality provision, will come with increased costs, though the benefits so clearly articulated in the proposal, and the likely SROI make this investment valuable at a time we have increasing numbers of young people in Scotland with poor mental health.

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?

Partially 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 key to achieving the benefits highlighted in the proposal and in the growing body of research evidence lie with the quality assurance of providers and their provision. Quality assurance as proposed through HMIE would be very effective in the areas of education delivery, teaching and learning and outcomes for young people, as well as safeguarding.

Statutory adventurous activity licensing inspections via HSE would provide effective QA on licensable adventurous activities.

This leaves some gaps in quality assurance which would be covered through engaging with the Council for Learning Outside the Classroom accreditation scheme, the LotC Quality Badge.

<https://www.lotcqualitybadge.org.uk/>

This would ensure better cover of areas around health and safety compliance in buildings and other infrastructure, vehicles, food safety, as well as covering risk management in non-licensable activity. The Adventurous Activities Licencing regulations are very specific and somewhat unhelpful here. For example, surfing on surf boards with a group of children does not require an AALA licence, whereas surfing with

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?

children using stand-up paddle board does. There are plenty of other idiosyncrasies and potential gaps which will exist if AALA licencing is the benchmark. These gaps disappear if LOTC QB is used as the benchmark. There would seem to be little to be gained from using resources to develop anything new to cover what exists already and was developed through consultation with the delivery sector. The LotC Quality Badge is UK wide, and not specific to any UK home nation curricula, and it is endorsed by the Department for Education in Westminster and by the Welsh Government Education Department. The resources developed by the Learning Away consortium help show how 'Brilliant Residentials' can be delivered. <https://www.learningaway.org.uk/>

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?

Neutral (neither support nor oppose)

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

Whilst highly valuable for the age range proposed, residential outdoor education is of benefit to younger age groups and to support particular learning and wider developmental goals, and transitions between learning stages.

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.

Equality of opportunity is vital – the proposal should aim for equality of engagement / participation as well. The LOTC QB accreditation scheme assesses how a provider meets the needs of all children and young people.

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

The measures laid out in the proposal are appropriate though work may be necessary to ascertain the level of specialist provision for children and young people with disabilities and other special needs. Funding support for providers may be required if capacity within Scotland is not high enough in this regard.

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 wide range of benefits of engaging young people in residential outdoor education visits in terms of health and wellbeing and in encouraging pro-environmental behaviour change are well documented. The logic models worked up for this area show how the personal outcomes delivered lead to wider societal outcomes. Evidence is also clear that there is a very strong relationship between levels of young people's nature connectedness and their wellbeing and their pro-environmental behaviours. Outdoor residential learning offers a very good opportunity to support nature connectedness and hence these wider outcomes too.

The LOtC Quality Badge includes assessment of providers work in promoting environmental sustainability – another reason why the fit here is so neat.

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)?

CLOTc would welcome the chance to work with HMIE and Scottish Government to help develop a quality assurance model which assimilates our knowledge and experience of running the LOtC Quality Badge scheme and builds its usefulness across all UK nations.

One of the principles of the Quality Badge is that it meets school demand for one simple and consistent accreditation that they recognise and trust regardless of sector or location. The nature of outdoor residential means that schools are likely to travel some distance from school, and hence likely to travel across home nation borders.