

# YouthLink Scotland's Response to Stage 1 of the schools (Residential Outdoor Education) (Scotland) Bill

## Introduction

YouthLink Scotland, representing vast networks of youth work organisations, **strongly supports** the proposed Schools (Residential Outdoor Education) (Scotland) Bill.

We believe outdoor residential experiences should be a core, mandatory part of Scotland's Curriculum, given their significant benefits for young people, including personal development, educational attainment, and skills-building.

## Key Messaging

1. **Broad Access for Young People:** YouthLink Scotland aims to ensure that all young people can experience outdoor learning regardless of background. This includes advocating for flexibility in participation, such as lowering the age range to include primary school children and considering different accommodation settings.
2. **Youth Work:** The proposal emphasises the critical role of youth work in delivering outdoor education. Youth workers are essential partners who provide continuity of support before, during, and after residential experiences, particularly benefiting minoritised young people.
3. **Learning and Development:** Outdoor education is recognised for enhancing confidence, teamwork, leadership, and problem-solving. It contributes positively to the Curriculum for Excellence and the Scottish

Attainment Challenge and integral to the learning for sustainability agenda.

4. **Inclusivity and Accessibility:** Youth work's commitment to a rights-based, inclusive approach aligns with the Bill's goals, ensuring that the benefits of outdoor education reach all learners, particularly those from underrepresented backgrounds.
5. **Collaboration and Sustainability:** YouthLink Scotland highlights the importance of partnerships between schools, youth workers, and local communities to support the Bill's implementation. We advocate for sustained investment in the youth work sector to enhance outdoor learning programmes.

## Summary

YouthLink Scotland reiterates its support for the Bill because it aligns with the youth work mission of empowering young people, supporting equitable access to enriching outdoor experiences, and reinforcing the importance of youth work as a core part of the educational landscape.

For more information about this Bill, please contact YouthLink Scotland's Policy & Research Manager Kevin Kane on [kkane@youthlink.scot](mailto:kkane@youthlink.scot).