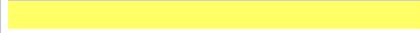
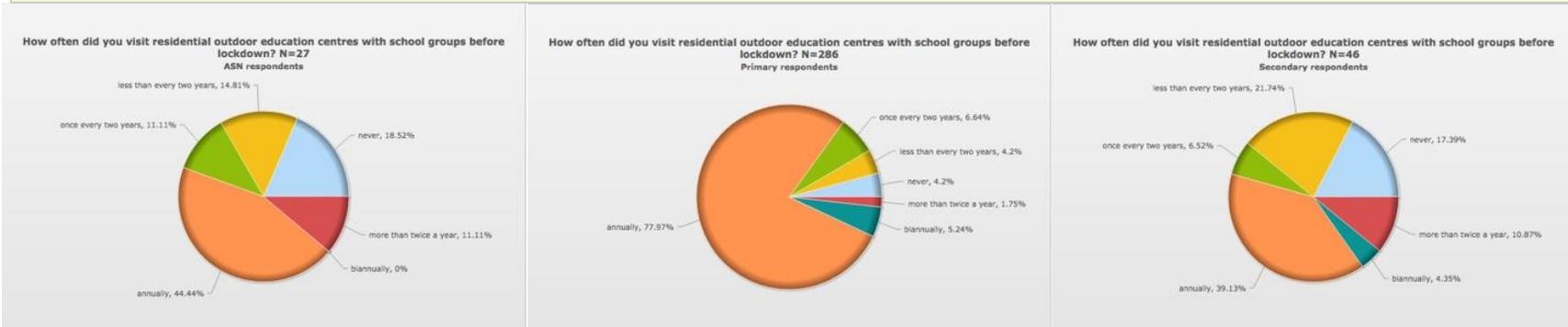


## Outdoor Education Centre Covid19 recovery, Teacher survey data summary 2020

Which education setting do you work with? N=350			
			Response Percent
			Response Total
1	Primary		81.71%
2	Secondary		13.14%
3	Independent		1.14%
4	Additional Support Needs		7.71%
5	Further Education		1.14%

Do you feel that lockdown and Covid-19 could have effected young people negatively in the following areas? N=346			
			Response Percent
			Response Total
1	Mental Health		97.69%
3	Confidence		82.66%
5	Teamworking skills		82.66%
9	Physical health		78.32%
6	Resilience		74.86%
2	Communication skills		73.12%
4	Personal development		73.12%
8	Understanding others views		60.12%
7	Connection to nature		56.65%

**How often did you visit residential outdoor education centres with school groups before lockdown? N=359**



**Once the pandemic is over how do you think your school will engage with residential outdoor learning? N=350**

			Response Percent	Response Total
1	More outdoor learning		51.14%	179
2	About the same as before		35.14%	123
3	Less outdoor learning		8.29%	29
4	Other (please specify):		5.43%	19

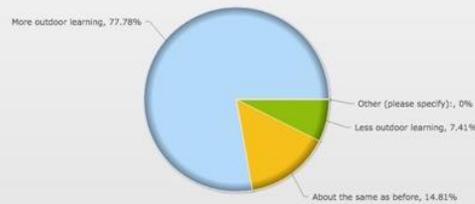
- Don't know - hopefully just as much as we did previously.
- Depending on LA guidelines & don't think they will understand the predicament of centres
- More outdoor learning within the school no residential.
- Our schools don't do enough outdoor education
- Hopefully extra outdoor learning. I have sent a proposal for a new outdoor learning program
- Not sure what will be recommended or allowed.
- It's hard to know at the moment, depends on what is "allowed".



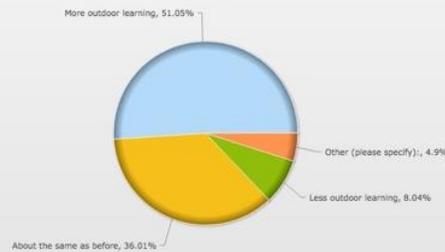
Once the pandemic is over how do you think your school will engage with residential outdoor learning? N=350

	Response Percent	Response Total
Don't know.		
I am not sure how schools will respond that i hope that as a means to rebuild teamwork and mental health, residential experiences will become a priority.		
No bookings allowed. Staff unwilling to share close spaces at night with pupils either.		
We have not yet been refunded for this year's trip so not sure I will trust anyone again.		
Not sure		
More outdoor learning in the school grounds. Less residentially		
OL dropped completely by head teacher!!		
not sure		
I'm very keen to get a residential trip up-and-running at my school (I benefited hugely from these as a pupil in the 80s & 90s and see it as a huge gap in my current school's curriculum).		
Non-residential outdoor learning increasing but no residential		
Unsure at this stage. Will depend on guidance and parental confidence		
More in school outdoor learning		

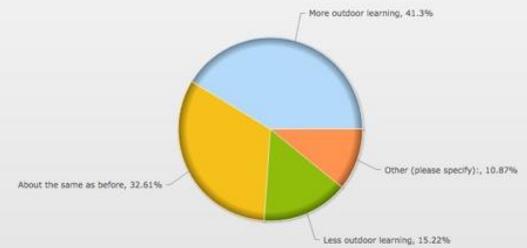
Once the pandemic is over how do you think your school will engage with residential outdoor learning? N=27 ASN respondents



Once the pandemic is over how do you think your school will engage with residential outdoor learning? N=286 Primary respondents



Once the pandemic is over how do you think your school will engage with residential outdoor learning? N=46 Secondary respondents

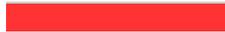


Please rank these by your concern for returning to residential outdoor learning? (1 being greatest priority) N=350

Item	Total Score <sup>1</sup>	Overall Rank
Scottish government guidance	3193	1
Local authority/employer procedures	2913	2
Union or Professional Association guidance	2236	3
Cancellation refund policy	2181	4
Outdoor centre insurance	2113	5
Employers Insurance	2101	6
Parents enthusiasm	2088	7
School staff availability	2054	8
Transport distancing costs	2019	9
Head teacher enthusiasm	1662	10

<sup>1</sup> Score is a weighted calculation. Items ranked first are valued higher than the following ranks, the score is a sum of all weighted rank counts.

If it proves impossible to guarantee against financial loss due to pandemic cancellation, what do you perceive parents risk threshold would be? N=348

			Response Percent	Response Total
1	zero		33.62%	117
2	£1 to £50		38.51%	134
3	£50 to £100		15.52%	54
4	£100 to £150		7.18%	25
5	£150 to £200		2.30%	8
6	more		2.87%	10

**Your answers will inform the SAPOE and Scottish Governments work on schools return to outdoor education centres, is there anything else you would like to add? Open ended question N=72**

Our school funds were used to partially refund parents for a missed residential this year. We cannot take the risk of a similar loss again. Without a money back guarantee, we couldn't ask parents to pay.

I fully support outdoor education centres and have been disheartened by recent closures. Over the past decade or so we seem to always hear about the pressures on centres, always under the threat of closure and an easy option for local authority budget cuts. I have taken pupils to various outdoor residential centres throughout my 27 year career. Pupils, staff and parents were devastated that my school's 2020 visit had to be cancelled - although we fully understood why and obviously agreed with the need for national lockdown - as it is such a life changing and momentous experience. Our school, like many I am sure, goes above and beyond to make sure that the pupils who will benefit the most are able to attend, ie vulnerable pupils who financially would be excluded if we did not discreetly provide aid. Over the past 27 years I have encountered the most dedicated and passionate instructors and staff. Pupils hero worship their instructors and cannot help but be influenced by their obvious expertise and positive attitudes. Memories for life are formed in just a handful of days. Their confidence and resilience grows beyond measure. I am always amazed at the obvious bond and enhanced mutual respect for each other that I see in them on our return to school. For us, there is no better way to celebrate their final term at primary.

Residential outdoor trips are essential to pupils development. Fundraising happens throughout the session which is a challenge in itself. Done parent can take the hit financially others found this difficult to take. No refunds have been given and we are several months down the line . School staff are taking the anger from parents in regards to this and that's not fair.

Parents and staff will understandably be concerned about the impact of social distancing and shared accommodation

I believe access to quality outdoor residential experiences are vital for the development of our children and young people. The benefits from learning from experts in their field is invaluable. The contribution made by instructors to the self worth individuals feel is invaluable. Often, it is our most vulnerable and less confident children that thrive during these experiences. For some children it is absolutely a once in a lifetime opportunity.

Support must be given to support our outdoor residential centres our children need it now more than ever.

Outdoor education centres are a brilliant resource and would be sorely missed by the children and staff involved. You get the chance to see children who are not academic flourish in an area that is just as important. The children get to experience activities and areas that they wouldn't get the chance to in their daily lives. I took a group of 18 children to Arran in February and most of the children hadn't even been on or seen the boat before never mind experienced the activities that Arran Outdoor centre provided when we were there! Children who are quiet and reserved came out of their shell and ran about the trees and looked for any wildlife that they could see. I can appreciate that funding might be tricky but the benefits that come from the experience are vast! The teaching from the instructors are of a far better quality than any teacher can provide in outdoor learning. Schools cannot provide outdoor learning to the same degree as the outdoor centres without far more money and training.

Outdoor education residential services offer experiences that can often be difficult to replicate in any other setting. Children develop resilience, self-confidence, self-reliance and more simply by being away from home, often for the first time without family particularly in the primary setting. Opportunities like this are crucial.

Lack of school staff available to go on these trips has also been a negative factor even prior to the pandemic. You are relying on staff to volunteer to spend time away from their home and family, with often little phone signal, no extra pay etc or time back. At school it is also a struggle to cover those staff willing to volunteer.

I think an outdoor residential trip is so important in a child's primary school experience due to the learning/skills they gain from it.

**Your answers will inform the SAPOE and Scottish Governments work on schools return to outdoor education centres, is there anything else you would like to add? Open ended question N=72**

Residential and outdoor learning experiences are wonderful and should always be available for children. There are many children who would never get the opportunity to learn the skills and try new things if it wasn't for outdoor education centres.

perhaps a phased approach initially if adventure days/ OU days would begin to increase confidence in staying away. Centres could offer a day initially & then a residential later. This is a vital part of education & growing up for young people it cannot be lost or stopped apart from the devastation to the sector.

Residential trips are formative experiences for young people- I remember my first one like it was yesterday (despite being 27 years ago!). These opportunities would be fantastic to help build up children who may have suffered during the lockdown period. As a P7 teacher and parent of a P7, I would be happy to attend my camp and send my son as long as there are no more covid spikes

Having accompanied my class for the last few years on the yearly outdoor centre residential trip, I have seen firsthand the positive difference it has on children. And, as a teacher who's rapidly approaching retirement, have very fond memories of my own P7 trip when my teacher took us hosteling in Aviemore - these trips have long-term effects!

Not sure if you are asking the right questions here, or explaining why these questions are being asked in particular?

These experiences at centres are invaluable and for the most part cannot be replicated in school.

I think the Scottish government should look to support such a valued aspect of education.

I hope they can reopen. We were at an outdoor centre the week before lockdown and it was amazing!

Outdoor education centres are invaluable. We should be doing all we can to keep them open and accessible

Our p7 trip is vital, the children will be so disappointed at missing out and will miss out on so many opportunities and experiences .

I think Outdoor Learning, particularly residential outdoor centres are an integral part of the education offer for children and young people. The opportunity for all children to learn new skills, develop resilience, gain independence and experience learning outwith the classroom is fundamental to Health and Wellbeing, relationships and having fun. I feel strongly if the opportunity for children to experience residential outdoor education were removed it will be a severe loss to the all round educational experience for all of our children.

Residential visits are considered a 'rite of passage' in most primary schools, and to not be able to accommodate these visits in the future, would be hugely disappointing to both pupils and parents/carers as they look forward to this P7 landmark adventure. Working in a fairly deprived area, however, as HT, I would be uncomfortable in asking parents/carers to sign up for something if I could not guarantee their money back in case of cancellation - this would definitely have to be a future consideration for us.

Still awaiting refund for our school for a trip cancelled in April. This is unacceptable and is adding to the financial pressures some families are experiencing. It has caused me no end of stress and been very time consuming. Even after 15 weeks of emails and excuses, only by our authority legal team intervening are they now offering a partial refund which is not acceptable. This company is based in Scotland but follow UK guidance which has been really unhelpful too. Although I fully appreciate the difficult times these centres are facing it can not be at the expense of our families. Financial support from the government or indeed exercising their own insurance is a must. I for one am very sceptical of taking children on a residential trip until covid 19 has been eliminated. It's an big risk that no teacher/school should be taking.

Children learn so much at school camps. They are a vital part of their education.

**Your answers will inform the SAPOE and Scottish Governments work on schools return to outdoor education centres, is there anything else you would like to add? Open ended question N=72**

Q5 - No. 1 Costs & availability options for residential trips.

My cohort of P7 pupils this year were able to have a week at Cumbrae. We are in an area of high deprivation and socio-economic problems and we were able to secure the week gratis putting no financial burden on families in a bid to entice as many pupils as possible. The behavioural problems disappeared. Despite the bleak weather the pupils had an incredible week, were a credit to our school and pushed themselves. They got so much learning and positive lessons from this week and they will remember this experience for the rest of their lives for all the right reasons.

Transport costs are prohibitive living in a rural area and this is the major cost to parents, not the attendance at the outdoor learning facility.

It is vital that residential centres are supported to remain open. They were invaluable to our children before and will be essential to our children now.

Learning outdoors is vital for the health and mental wellbeing of young people.  
Outdoors is a safer place to be in a pandemic

These centres are absolutely crucial in giving young people lasting skills for life and work - experiences that last a lifetime full of positivity. They enhance all the areas children have been affected by Covid lockdown stated in question 1 - children are having to learn how to interact and play effectively again outdoors. They need time away from digital devices more than ever. Outdoor learning has never been more important and should be supported financially. Always part of HGIOS 4. More people and centres needed to promote it and these should be experts with this single remit

The value to children and young people of working together in an outdoor environment is immeasurable. The difference I saw in my primary pupils after just 4 nights away was immense. Outdoor Education Centres are run by people with a passion which they share and pass on to the young people who visit. These centres have already been badly hit by local authority cutbacks.

I think it would be an absolute trade go if outdoor learning centres closed due to COVID 19. I have seen first hand on many many occasions how beneficial these opportunities are for children.

Residential, outdoor experiences will be more important than ever for children once the pandemic is over.

Outdoor education centres are vital to the rounded development of children especially where some children have had no previous access to such experiences.

The residential experience is a hugely important one for children. The skills and confidence they gain during their time at outdoor centres are deep and lasting.

The closing of council outdoor centres including Kilbowie in Oban is extremely short sighted and will be a decision we will all look back on with regret. With the outdoors being a much safer environment during the pandemic these centres provide a great setting for learning. Outdoor centres should be invested in now more than ever as they will be a useful tool in helping educators support childrens development particularly during and after the current covid crisis. Outdoor centres also offer an important opportunity to give children the chance to learn to respect our natural environment, such a vital part of becoming a responsible citizens. Whilst the residential element may not be possible for sometime children who live locally to these outdoor centres can still benefit greatly from the educational opportunities that they can provide.

Outdoor learning residential trips are vital to children's mental health and well-being. Please make sure they are prioritised!

**Your answers will inform the SAPOE and Scottish Governments work on schools return to outdoor education centres, is there anything else you would like to add? Open ended question N=72**

\*The emphasis will be on recovery of academic loss, particularly for senior students with SQA exams. Taking time out for residential activities, whilst worthwhile, will not be deemed important in those aiming for college and university.

\*As a teacher, I would be concerned that time out would need to be made up by running after school tutorials and catch-up sessions. These would impact on MY time and would be expected unpaid overtime. If not all students went on the residential then the class as a whole would get out of sync with each other and the hinder progression.

\*For mental health and well-being, group activities that take students out of their comfort zone or simply give the opportunity to mix, chat and connect with others, rank highly in my opinion.

\*Also need to consider that student athletes will hopefully be getting back into their sport and it will take time for training to regain fitness and endurance for their sport. Coaches may not be happy for their athletes to lose valuable training time.

\*For younger pupils, I think there will be a 'fear factor' in being away from home, particularly since recent travel has been so restricted.

Please don't close our residential outdoor education centres for some pupils it's their only opportunity to try all the activities and it's a trip of a lifetime for them

Rebuilding communities of learners may well be one of the goals of the school renewal. Residential experiences are an excellent way to build such communities. It is a great pity that many schools leave this to the end of the primary school. P5 or earlier would have more long term impact.

These trips are invaluable and everything should be done to ensure centres don't close. The expertise of staff in these centres provides the children with experiences that would otherwise be lost. Not only do the children learn skills for life and citizenship they also make memories with their friends. These experiences are spoken about for years to come. It is often the highlight of their primary school journey.

When I refer to more outdoor learning post COVID (Q4), I mean school grounds, local community and day trips.

Outdoor education is absolutely vital for the development socially and emotionally of our young people . We have to have the early intervention as economically if a child is dysregulated and continues on this path they will be at a higher risk of criminal activity and ultimately this will have a financial impact on society. Therefore early intervention to support our young people especially with SEBD is not only a benefit to the young person but to society in general

This survey does not take into account the economic situation of our parents which has changed very much for the worst. Parents will be nervous of any trips in the future and will be ill prepared to bear the cost of any trips.

Teaching in an area of high deprivation, parents cannot afford to lose money on school trips. This would influence the decision to book in the first place. Schools would struggle to staff these at the moment as all staff members will be utilised in ensuring the running of the school meets government and local authority stipulations.

Our kids & parents are desperate to go on their residential trip 2020-2021 session but the local authority have put a freeze on all residential trips for the foreseeable future.

I teach at D Primary which can be disadvantaged due to transport costs, especially now with necessary distancing. Sadly access to outdoor facilities is not a level playing field.

**Your answers will inform the SAPOE and Scottish Governments work on schools return to outdoor education centres, is there anything else you would like to add? Open ended question N=72**

As a P7 teacher the highlight of my pupils year is their residential trip. They develop their independence skills, challenge themselves, try activities they've never done before, make new friends, grow in confidence, form memories to draw on in the future. Parents notice a difference in their children and pupils themselves feel a sense of achievement. All of these are why I think, especially now, that outdoor centres are vital in the development of Scotland's children.

Outdoor residential have been amazing opportunities for pupils in the past. Helping to build confidence and team work skills. Staff who work in the centres are highly skilled, caring and enthusiastic. Happy to support them but it is a huge commitment for school staff and currently most staff have no working time agreement to go forward with. Unknown and uncertain of working conditions within school. Expectations ever changing

Outdoor Education is vital for children's development.

Outdoor education and especially on a residential basis is so important to a child's development. I have seen, so many times, the confidence boost and self belief such trips afford young people. The ability to work with others and see the countryside- for many pupils this is the beginning of a love for outdoor life... for others it may be their first trip out of the city. The benefit of trips and outdoor education is huge!

Even though technically 'on holiday' still dealing with stressful communications from unhappy families due to not being refunded in full yet.

Outdoor centres are a vital part of primary education. If it isn't possible to go back to these outdoor learning centres, we shouldn't be back in school either. I know there is an overnight element, but schools are not going to be able to social distance or prevent infection spread during the school day, and the best anyone can hope for is good hand washing. Day or night, this is the same. Outdoors is safer than indoors, so children would be safer during the day at an outdoor centre.

It's so important for children to experience residential. I think it should be an annual entitlement for all children throughout their time at school.

Outdoor education is vital in educating our children !!!

Please do all you can to get outdoor residential centres re-opened. They are such a valuable experience for pupils that would be a devastating loss if closed. Most pupils remember camps as their favourite memory of primary school. It would be a disaster to lose these opportunities.

Our pupils have PMLD, making overnight stays near impossible. Day outdoor learning sessions would be perfect.

We have to balance the risk of contracting the virus against the risk of not resuming these types of activities and the enormous benefits they bring. I think the risks associated with closure outweigh the risk of contamination

Why, with all the emphasis on equality and outdoor education, are residential not fully funded and prioritised by government/schools so that ALL children go EVERY year?

I think it has effected children positively.

I dearly hope that outdoor education centres survive these circumstances, they play an invaluable role in the education of children and young people.

Please encourage secondary sector to include more OL & residential outdoor ed in curriculum

Parental risk threshold is also going to be shaped by ongoing refunds & communications. Many families are waiting for refunds from trips and activities cancelled during lockdown. If these come back quickly (and fully) then family experiences will be more positive and they will be more likely to book future trips but if families continue to have to fit for refunds or feel that local authorities are not communicating well with them, we will all suffer.

**Your answers will inform the SAPOE and Scottish Governments work on schools return to outdoor education centres, is there anything else you would like to add? Open ended question N=72**

Outdoor residential trips had a huge positive impact on my own education (via Lothian Region centres at Benmore, Lagganlia etc) and I can now see that my own children, growing up in Moray, are not getting the same opportunities as part of their core secondary curriculum.

We are an ECC and there was no space for us in Q1 so ticked primary as closest.

We use outdoors and our local community every day.

We usually go 2 trips per year.

Last year we took 9 families on our first ever residential - it was fab.

We received a grant this year to enable us to go again this year in September however it has been cancelled due to COVID.

Thank you

Any outdoor residential experiences the pupils at my school have had have lead to long term improvements in resilience, team work and engagement in education.

Regarding question 6. I have put zero but this is a poor reflection on my answer. The answer would be dependent on individual family circumstances. I work in an area with mixed SIMDS and this answer would vary depending on the family.

Only that myself and 5 other small schools booked through PGL and have had to and are still fighting for monies to be returned, if the company had been following government guidelines schools we would not have had to suffer the cost. I have parents who need the money returned and are now having to wait on the councils insurers sorting PGL mess as the school does not have this cash to offer them a refund.

Our Local Authority recently sold our dedicated centre. This couldn't have come at a worse time. I really worry this type of outdoor residential experience won't be a priority now going forward when it would have been more valuable than ever.

Scottish government or local authorities should be working with sports Scotland and national trust and heritage Scotland to invest in facilities used all year round. These places should be charitable status with non profit aims.

If we go back to school in August with full classes, we should be able to take children to their residential trips

Our P7 residential is the highlight of the year which provides children with a huge amount of opportunities to learn, build friendships, develop confidence and self belief. I believe these outdoor education centres to be of upmost importance.

I believe that to have outdoor residential outings would boost parents confidence if they were closer to home in the first year or so. This may include camping in school grounds or in centres within the local environment to allow parent who became worried to remove children if need be. This would also limit the cost of outings and lessen the risk of more severe financial loss.

Question 6 dependent on social demographic.

Personally, I am very keen to revisit outdoor centres as I see these as positive experiences for all.