

# Outdoor Education Centres

## Support available to you during Covid-19

The following provides an overview of support available to you from outdoor education centres in the context of the Scottish Government guidance on school visits and trips.

The full guidance is available at: <https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-for-school-visits-and-trips/>

### What you can do – subject to the Covid-19 local protection level which applies in your area

- Arrange for day visits to centres in your region. This can be either single days or multiple separate days. School day visits are exempt from [current Level 3 and Level 4 restrictions](#).
- Arrange for centre staff to provide outdoor learning experiences in your school grounds or at a local green space.
- Arrange for outdoor education staff to provide advice, support and professional development to your teaching staff.



See [case studies](#) from Outward Bound and Blairvadach for examples of how this can be done.

### What you cannot do...for now

At the present time overnight outdoor education centre visits are not permitted in any part of Scotland. This advice is being kept under review.

## Benefits of outdoor education experiences

- Better physical and mental wellbeing – particularly important in the context of Covid-19
- An appreciation of the natural world
- Skills for life including resilience, risk assessment and team work
- Better engagement in learning
- Improved attainment
- Reduced risk in relation to the transmission of infection

There are further benefits for learners from disadvantaged backgrounds and those with additional support needs.

## What next?

- Contact education centres in your local area and ask what they can do with your learners. See the [residential outdoor education centre directory](#) and the [online map](#) of outdoor learning providers.
- Funding? A new [fund](#) is available for residential outdoor education centres to deploy their staff to schools and other settings. If contributions are needed, you may be able to consider your Pupil Equity Funding or Scottish Attainment Challenge funding, where available.
- Conduct the necessary risk assessments – there is support and advice to do this. See the [Going Out There](#) website for more information.