

Response ID ANON-6VB8-KR8F-1

Submitted to Take the survey
Submitted on 2022-12-05 14:12:26

Questions

1 What kind of education will be needed by children and young people in Scotland in the future?

Please add your response in the text box:

Education will need to reflect real world issues and enable children and young people, as well as lifelong learners, to thrive amongst them. The impacts of climate change is likely to remain a major issue affecting our people locally and globally; learners will need to be educated on the causes of this as well as how they can make a difference and how they can adapt. In addition, wider aspects of sustainability that can be summarised by the UN sustainable development goals will continue to impact the quality of current and future generations' lives. Therefore, learners need holistic Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) that spans every stage of their development, including tertiary education.

Furthermore, it is vital to acknowledge that learning does not end after school or at a certain age. Education policies need to include lifelong learning and the needs of learners of all ages to equip Scotland's population equally and fairly to face the challenges ahead.

2 How do we make that a reality?

Please add your response in the text box:

Principle actions include:

- Mandating Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) as a requirement of all courses of study;
- Upskilling educators (including course development staff e.g. within SQA/replacement body) on how to embed ESD in curriculum, and on using pedagogies that support development of students competencies for ESD through clear guidance.

3 How can every child and young person's individual needs be supported and addressed in the future?

Please add your response in the text box:

N/A

4 What is one thing that needs to stay and why?

Please add your response in the text box:

The curriculum of excellence, as it coherently embeds aspects of education for sustainable development throughout young people's education in a scaffolded, interdisciplinary manner. However, there is room for education for sustainable development to be included more explicitly in this framework.

5 What are the most important priorities for a future Scottish education system?

Please add your response in the text box:

Developing real world skills that allow our learners to prosper in a socially just way without disadvantaging other living things or the environment.

Tangible actions to achieve this that should be prioritised are:

- 1) Embedding themes of sustainability in the curriculum - for example using the UN sustainable development goals as a framework so students have awareness of both local and global issues. This should be reflected in policies across the education sector, including tertiary education.
- 2) Encouraging use of innovative pedagogy that develops competencies for sustainable development, which allow students to independently act sustainably, such as those outlined by UNESCO and adopted in QAA's guidance for ESD. These pedagogies, including collaborative learning, enquiry-based learning, playful learning, learning through storytelling, and problem-based learning, all recentre the learner in their own education rather than it being focussed on the educator. This has been stated as a need of the Scottish education sector by the recent Muir review.

6 How can we ensure that everyone involved in education in Scotland has a say in future decisions and actions?

Please add your response in the text box:

Consultations such as this, supported by stakeholder groups in the sector, such as EAUC Scotland and Learning for Sustainability Scotland, can support those involved in education to understand proposed decisions and actions and have their voice heard meaningfully. This could be through webinars and focus groups.

However, Scottish Government must not rely on interested individuals seeking these opportunities out and must make an effort to reach out to all stakeholders across all levels of education, including students, so they are aware of opportunities and fully understand the implication of future decisions and actions.

7 How can children and young people be cared for and supported in the future? (i.e. physical and mental wellbeing)

Please add your response in the text box:

A key strand of Education for Sustainable Development is good health and wellbeing. A holistic approach to embedding ESD, that includes but looks further than climate change education, is likely to holistically support the physical and mental wellbeing of our children and young people in the future. To achieve this, educators should employ universal design for learning in their curriculum which has been proven to support learner wellbeing. This comprises of: autonomy, belonging, flexibility, meaningful assessment and feedback, accessibility, identity, social justice and innovative pedagogy.

8 How can the right of every child and young person to have opportunities to develop their full potential be achieved in future?

Please add your response in the text box:

Two pedagogical approaches are especially important to make sure learners, young or old, can develop their potential:

Interdisciplinary learning: Siloed learning limits young people's opportunities to find their niche and fulfil their potential. Furthermore, interdisciplinary thinking is a competency specifically included in guidance on Education for Sustainable Development and is crucial so people can cope with the challenges and consistently changing demands our current times are posing.

Community engagement and experiential learning: Students must be given opportunities to connect with potential employers and gain skills that will allow them to thrive in the world of work. Such experiential learning is vital to developing "real life" skills as part of education, and furthermore can help to build a sense of connection and ownership of place. This, especially for smaller and more disadvantaged communities, strengthens social aspects such as health and wellbeing, as well as economic aspects, such as employment opportunities – ultimately leading to an improvement of (young) people's opportunities in their area.

9 How can children and young people be helped to learn about our changing world, so they feel able to positively contribute?

Please add your response in the text box:

Any attempt to help young people learn about our changing world must be framed in a positive, solution focussed way. 73% of tertiary education students report experiencing climate anxiety, so we must be empathetic towards this in our approach to avoid contributing to poor wellbeing.

Education for Sustainable Development, when embedded holistically, teaches learners about the most prevalent local and global social, economic, and environmental issues in our changing world. It does not suggest the incoming generation sacrifice their quality of life to 'make up' for the mistakes of previous generation, but instead reframes development in a way that is socially just, environmentally sustainable and economically viable.

A key idea of ESD is teaching students to 'think global, act local'. Often the magnitude of phenomena changing our world means young people feel they don't have agency to positively contribute. Education can address this by linking individual actions to large scale change. A good example of this happening successfully is through carbon literacy training at schools, colleges, and universities. Similar initiatives that build an understanding of the current social, environmental, and economic challenges that Scotland and the world face are vital to empower learners to address these challenges in their communities and beyond, so they feel they can contribute.

10 Do you have any other comments that you would like to provide about a vision for the future of Scottish Education?

Please add your response in the text box:

Many young people are expressing a desire for Education for Sustainable Development; however, this has led to an assumption that all young people are keen.

It is our experience that this is not the case. Opinions of young peoples' guardians or those in their community outside of education can sway them to oppose sustainability - a prominent example of this in Scotland is plant-based diets impact on livestock farmers viability.

This highlights the importance of lifelong learning, not just for young people, but for everyone. This emphasises the importance of colleges and universities, who are providers and platforms of lifelong learning. Furthermore, educational institutions should endeavour to deliver ESD in a discursive unbiased manner that values diverse opinions of people of all ages, but ultimately helps especially young people to develop values for sustainability and make informed choices based in fact.

We cannot assume young people will all take it upon themselves to direct their education down a route that will develop knowledge, skills, attributes, and values for sustainable development, so we must do it for them and with them by ensuring these are developed in every course of study, not just sustainability focussed courses and not just in primary and secondary education.

11 You are able to upload a file to help summarise your response here (optional):

file upload:

National Discussion for Future of Scottish Education consultation letter.docx was uploaded

About you

What is your name?

Name:

Kathrin Mobius

What is your email address?

Email:
kmobius@eauc.org.uk

Are you responding as an individual or an organisation?

Organisation

[For Individuals] Are you responding as a: a) learner, b) parent, c) teacher, d) school support staff, e) education practitioner, or f) other?

Select Role:

Other::

[for organisations] What is your organisation?

Organisation:
EAUC-Scotland

The Scottish Government would like your permission to publish your discussion response. Please indicate your publishing preference:

Publish response with name

We will share your response internally with other Scottish Government policy teams who may be addressing the issues you discuss. They may wish to contact you again in the future, but we require your permission to do so. Are you content for Scottish Government to contact you again in relation to this consultation exercise?

Yes

I confirm that I have read the privacy policy and consent to the data I provide being used as set out in the policy.

I consent

Evaluation

Please help us improve our consultations by answering the questions below. (Responses to the evaluation will not be published.)

Matrix 1 - How satisfied were you with the national discussion's survey?:
Slightly dissatisfied

Please enter comments here.:

Education should be seen as a lifelong journey, not just for young people. The green jobs challenge alone shows the importance of continued education for people of all ages.

Matrix 1 - How would you rate your satisfaction with using this platform (Citizen Space) to respond to this consultation?:
Slightly satisfied

Please enter comments here.: