



UK Outdoors

Learning • Health • Adventure

Save Outdoor Education

Outdoor education is facing an existential threat in the UK. The Government continues to block the reopening of the sector which has been shut since March with no revenue, despite similar businesses such as boarding schools continuing to operate. The sector has met and exceeded all relevant Government guidelines and is set up to deliver as an extension of the school bubble policy that Government have deemed safe to operate.

If there is no change to [guidance](#) the sector's 15,000 jobs are at risk and over half the UK's outdoor education capacity will be permanently lost. We need your help to save outdoor education and protect this vital educational, community and cultural asset for this and future generations of schoolchildren.

Objective

The Government have committed to review the guidance advising against residential outdoor education in November. Whilst we participate in the Review, we are aiming to build political support to ensure that guidance and our sector is reopened in time for the start of 2021.

15,000
jobs at risk

Impact

Our sector is one of a few that has been prevented from any meaningful economic activity. The Government's decision not to consider reopening prior to January 2021 has already resulted in over 3,000 job losses, with 3,000 more expected before the end of the year. Over half of the sector's capacity could be permanently lost. The sector has lost over £500m in revenue since the lockdown. Children across the country have been housebound, especially within cities, and are missing out on vital and formative outdoor educational experiences.

Safety

Our sector is built on health and safety. We have developed extensive COVID-safe protocols that allow the sector to meet and exceed all relevant Government guidance. The sector has taken extraordinary steps to ensure services are delivered with appropriate social distancing, high hygiene levels and as an extension of school bubbles – the key Government policy – whilst providers have offered a range of further protective measures including staggered arrivals and dining and activities, amended activities, reduced capacity accommodation, increased staffing.

50%
of all outdoor
education capacity
will be
permanently lost

Value

The benefits of outdoor education are widely researched and documented, with residential visits widely recognised as the most impactful. Outdoor education is the moment that changes many children's lives, across the country regardless of background. It brings children in touch with the great outdoors, promoting a love of nature, a sense of adventure and developing social and teamwork skills.

For many children, in cities or towns, the outdoors and the countryside can feel a life away. Outdoor education brings children into a different environment that can provide exceptional educational benefits beyond the classroom and change lives.

How can you help?

We need your support to show Government the damage it is doing to such an important educational asset.

Please write to your local MP, using the template provided, and encourage them to support the save outdoor education campaign by writing to Gavin Williamson, Secretary of State for Education.

Invite your MP to visit your centre to see first-hand the effects of the guidance.

Please do use the **#saveoutdoored** on twitter or facebook

Please remember to refer any national media enquiries to media@ukoutdoors.org.uk

[SIGN THE PETITION TO SAVE OUTDOOR EDUCATION HERE](#)