

<b>Report To:</b>	<b>Education &amp; Lifelong Learning Committee</b>	<b>Date:</b>	<b>8 September 2009</b>
<b>Report By:</b>	<b>Acting Director of Education</b>	<b>Report No:</b>	<b>EDUC/76/09/AH</b>
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	<b>Neil Campion</b>	<b>Contact No:</b>	<b>01475 712824</b>
<b>Subject:</b>	<b>Outdoor Education</b>		

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## **1.0 PURPOSE**

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to update committee on the previous 2008/2009 £80,000 funding allocated to Outdoor Education in last year's budget settlement.

## **2.0 SUMMARY**

- 2.1 The report provides an evaluation on the Outdoor Education Residential Experience to Broomlee (Scottish Outdoor Education Centres) for primary 6 pupils in 2008/2009.

## **3.0 RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 3.1 The committee approves that the use of the previous funding to provide a two day residential experience for all Primary 6 pupils was achieved and a success.

**Albert Henderson**  
**Acting Director of Education**

## **4.0 BACKGROUND**

- 4.1 A summary evaluation report is appended to this report. Background paper (**Appendix 1**) The evaluation outlined, in this section reviews the use of the £80,000 assigned to Outdoor Education in last year's budget (2008/2009) settlement to improve and extend the service across Inverclyde. The review was conducted with all establishments' staff and pupils to gather views on the P6 residential experience at Broomlee. This was undertaken to address any potential issues, show accountability and highlight impact and areas of good practice.

## **5.0 PROPOSALS**

- 5.1 It was agreed that funding would be allocated to further continue and develop the outdoor residential experience for 3 years from 2008/2009 – 2010/2011.

## **6.0 IMPLICATIONS**

### 6.1 Finance

There are no financial implications

### 6.2 Legal

There are no legal implications

### 6.3 Personnel

There are no personnel implications

## **7.0 CONCLUSION**

- 7.1 The further development of the service would be welcomed to improve standards of outdoor education provision.

## **8.0 EQUALITIES ISSUES**

There are no equalities issues.

## **9.0 LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS**

- 9.1 P6 Residential Evaluation - Appendix 1



## Primary 6 Outdoor Residential Experience 2008 - 2009



### Evaluation Summary SOEC - Broomlee

Neil Campion  
Education Development – Sport / Health / Outdoor Learning  
29 Aug. 2009

Supported 'in kind' by



**Primary 6  
Outdoor Residential Experience  
2008 - 2009**

**Proposal**

The initial proposal was to develop a Residential Outdoor Education experience by utilising an external provider to give the opportunity for every Primary 6 pupil in Inverclyde to participate in a residential outdoor education experience.

**Aim**

The aim of the proposal was to provide innovative and adventurous learning experiences for the young people particularly in a residential placement. The programme was designed to encourage individuals to challenge themselves in a safe and controlled environment.

The proposal was tendered and won by the Scottish Outdoor Education Centres. The residential visits commenced from February to March 2009, based at The Scottish Outdoor Education Centres, Broomlee Centre in West Linton. Inverclyde Education Services, in partnership with the Scottish Outdoor Education Centres (SOEC), designed a bespoke 2 night outdoor residential learning programme for all primary 6 pupils, ensuring at all times the learning experiences for the pupils were the main priority.

This innovative programme linked to 'A Curriculum for Excellence', which included confidence building and cross curricular themes on rivers and health. This learning could be contextualised by the pupils on return to their local area where the river and health are prevalent in their lives, thus embedding their learning in the wider school curriculum.

In this first year, provision would benefit one year cohort of primary children and directly involve 86 members of staff from 23 schools and active schools. (76 teachers/class room assistants and 10 Active School Coordinators constitutes 20% of the primary education staff team in Inverclyde).

The following evaluation was conducted with all establishments staff and pupils to gather views on the P6 residential experience at Broomlee. This was undertaken to address any potential issues, show accountability and highlight impact and areas of good practice.

## Evaluation

All 23 primary schools who participated on the residential experience were requested to complete an online evaluation of the experience and the results are outlined below.

## Figures

- 762 P6 pupils went on the residential trip with 86 members of staff.
- 25 members of staff from the 23 schools completed the evaluation.
- 6 schools failed to complete the survey.

## Pupils Responses

The main beneficiaries of the residential experience were the pupils and below are just a small sample of their comments after their two days away.

## Comments

I learned that if I push myself to do something I can do it.

I learned that my team is better now that I have been at Broomlee.

I learned I can do things that I didn't know I could do.

I was able to work in a team and communicate much better.

I learned I wasn't that scared of heights and to trust people.

I learned I could overcome my worst fears when I tried.

I learned I could stay outside more often and I had the ability to do that for three days.

I learned that I was more adventurous than I thought I was and I could overcome fears.

I learned that could conquer my fears.

I can do things if I put 100% into it and say "I can do it in my head".

I learned I could do a lot more things than I thought I could do and if I set my mind to something I could do it really well.

I learned I could do more than I thought I could do.

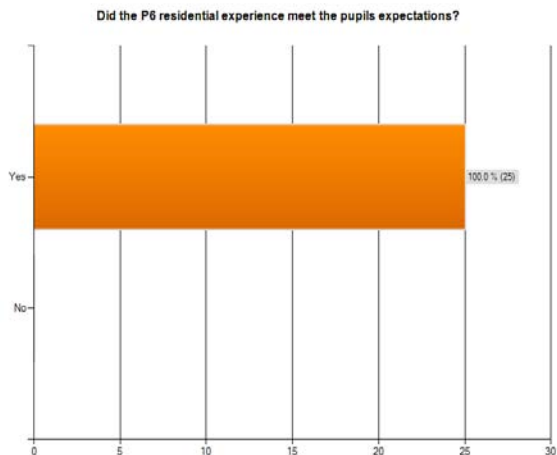
I learned if I try I am better than I thought.

I feel more confident after being at Broomlee and I am willing to try new things.

Overall I enjoyed Broomlee and I hope I get the chance to go again

## Response to Questions

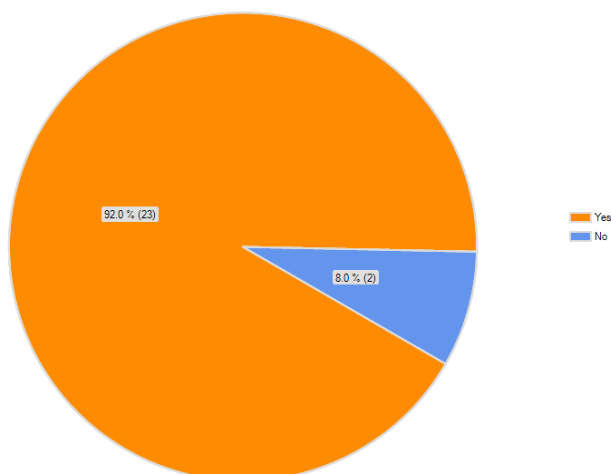
Below is the response to the key questions from staff which impacted on delivery which helps provide an overall evaluation of the experience. It must be noted that these views were gathered over the period of the visits so some early comments were used to alter the programme and provide higher quality experience for future establishments.



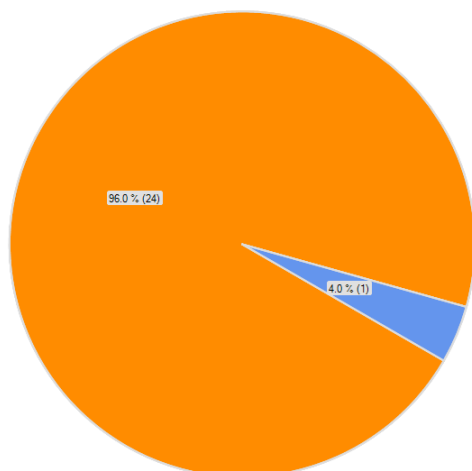
- 100% / (25) of staff felt the experience met the pupils expectations.

Did the P6 residential experience meet your expectations?

- 92% / (23) of staff felt the experience met their expectations.  
8% / (2) of staff, did not.

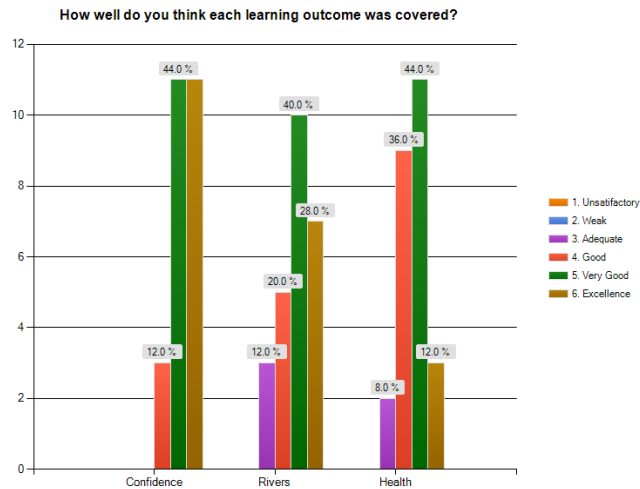


Do you feel the residential experience is suited for P6 pupils?

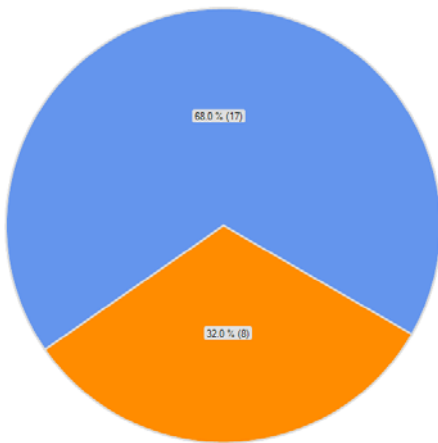


- 96% / (24) of staff felt the experience was suited for P6.  
4% (1) of staff, did not.

- 44% of staff felt the learning outcome for confidence was very good or excellent and 12% felt it was good.
- 40% of staff felt the learning outcome for rivers was very good, 28% felt it was very good, 20% felt it was good and 12% felt it was adequate
- 44% of staff felt the learning outcome for health was very good, 36% felt it was good, 12% felt it was excellent and 8% felt it adequate.



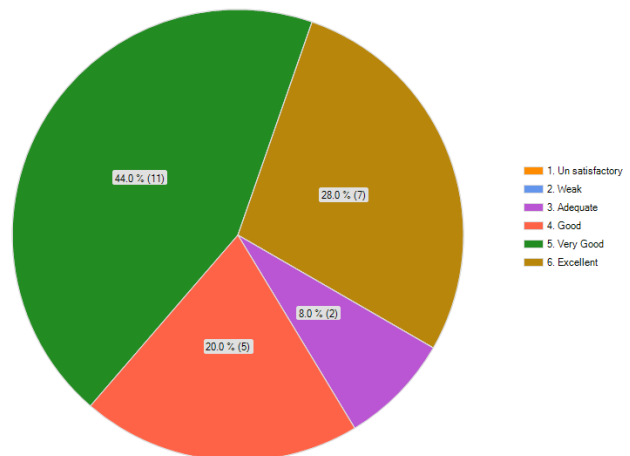
Was it difficult to find staff to attend this residential experience?



- 68% / (17) of staff felt it was not difficult to find staff to attend the experience.
- 32% / (8) of staff felt it was difficult to find staff to attend the experience.

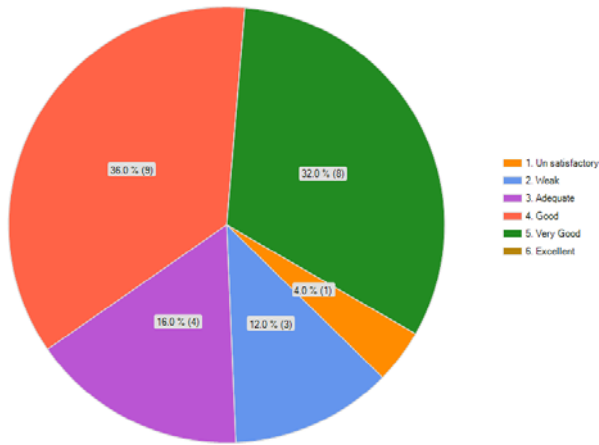
- 40% / (11) of staff rated the tutors/instructors Broomlee as very good.  
28% / (7) of staff rated them as excellent.  
20% / (5) of staff rated them as good.  
8% / (2) of staff rated them as adequate

How would you rate the tutors/instructors at Broomlee?



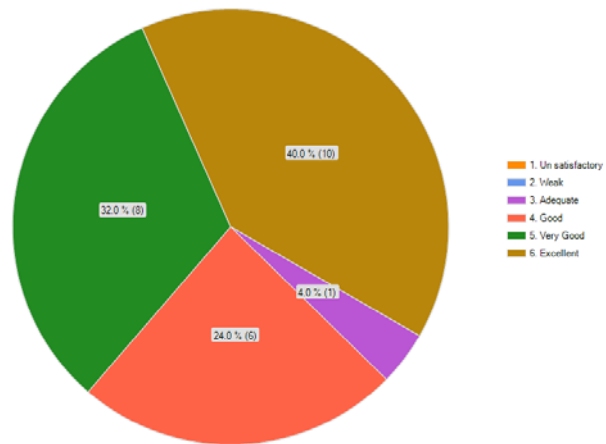


How would you rate the accommodation at Broomlee?



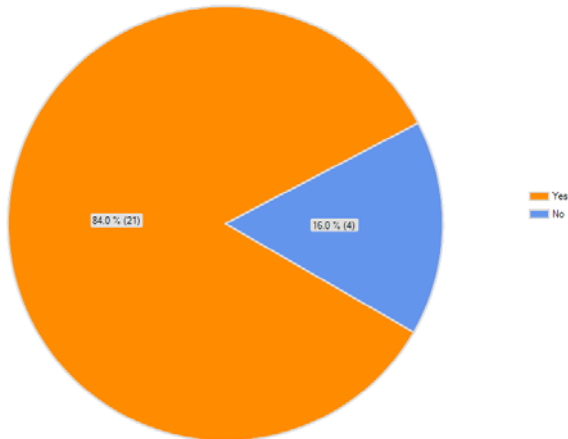
- 36% / (9) of staff rated the accommodation as good.
- 32% / (8) of staff felt it was excellent.
- 16% / (4) of staff felt it was adequate.
- 12% / (3) of staff felt it was weak.
- 4% / (1) of staff felt it was un-satisfactory.

How would you rate the food at Broomlee?



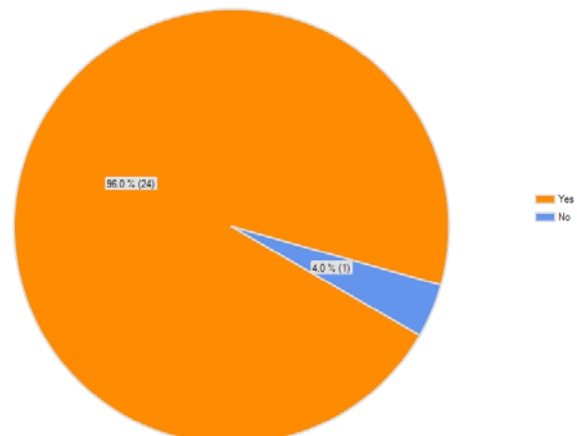
- 40% / (10) of staff felt the food at Broomlee was excellent.
- 32% / (8) of staff felt it was very good.
- 24% / (6) of staff felt it was good.
- 4% / (1) of staff felt it was adequate.

Were there any aspects of the P6 residential trip which could be improved?



- 84% / 21 of staff felt there were aspect of the experience which could be improved.
- 16% / (4) of staff felt there were no aspects which could be improved.

Would your school participate in a similar residential experience next year?



- 96% / 24 of the staff agreed that their school participate in a similar experience next year.
- 4% / (1) of staff felt that their school would not participate.

## What actions do you envisage taking in your school as a result of the P6 residential experience?

More team working and problem solving situations for the children to work through.

I think children require more explicit teaching of team work skills, followed up with opportunities for personal reflection and target setting.

Follow up activities and more awareness of potential of outdoor education.

The team building activities will be continue and encourage the children to support each other.

Encourage the children to continue to be more active and build on their confidence, emphasising their new 'can do' attitudes.

Building more on team work and using experiences to help my teaching. Report writing about the trip and some art lessons.

We took lots of photographs. We will invite our parents in to school to view these and children will explain what is happening. Pupils have already written a report of the trip and parents will view this and hopefully ask lots of questions. Our pupils will talk to next year's primary 6 and tell them about their experience.

As a class teacher I will continue to develop what the children learned on the trip and continue outdoor learning as much as possible.

I think the school would be very keen to do it again.

We completed a journal while in Broomlee and are going to use this as the basis for a presentation to be delivered to parents.

Follow up activities in school-talking/listening/writing/artwork.  
Post work on GLOW +website

FOLLOW UP WRITTEN WORK, DISCUSSIONS DURING CIRCLE TIME AND CONTINUE TO BUILD ON THEIR CONFIDENCE

If the class were mine it would be easy to continue with lessons relevant to this experience along with pre-visit work. However, the children gained so much from this and they all seemed to enjoy it immensely.

Children will write thank you letters. Children talked at today's assembly about how much they enjoyed the experience.

Continue to build upon teamwork and reinforce the healthy messages promoted.

Continue with confidence building strategies.

Build on team work which developed along with the self esteem of the children

Build on the learning and teaching and experiences that the children enjoyed.

Our Primary 6 pupils are reflecting on all that they have learned during their time at Broomlee, through discussions and in prepared writing.

Broomlee Reports

A Broomlee photo wall and display of work that the children produced and brought back with them to the school.

Circle time talks on reflection of what surprised them / made them proud etc.

Follow up discussions, reports, certificates to be awarded to those who achieved most on a personal level

The P6 class will be working on a presentation for the school's own Enterprise Day.

Development of the learning intentions in school settings and encouragement to apply these skills in everyday life situations.

## Do you have any other comments?

Broomlee provided excellent service from the centre manager right down to the catering and cleaning staff.

Can I say that both myself and my staff thoroughly enjoyed the whole experience. It was great to watch our pupils confidence grow and to see teamwork blossoming. It was great to see our pupils in a completely different setting and to watch trust and friendships develop.

Fantastic trip- great idea and I would definitely go back!

Both the staff and pupils thoroughly enjoyed this experience. One pupil who, is a selective mute, became very animated and talked, shouted and sang while at Broomlee and has taken part in more class discussion since returning.

I thoroughly enjoyed the trip and was most surprised by the responses from the children. The only thing we felt was that the questionnaires should have been given to us before the trip as they were based on their expectations and the 2nd questionnaire could have completed on the return to school. We shared these views with the Manager of the centre. Sheila, the manager, was wonderful throughout and was always around, making herself available to all staff and children. She does a wonderful job.

A very tiring but enjoyable experience. Thanks for all your organisation.

A very enjoyable trip. Pupils got a lot out of it. I do think however that it is a lot to ask of staff 24/7 and that all involved should have some kind of small reward at the end of it e.g. day off - which is made standard practice across the authority.

This was a wonderful experience and I would sincerely thank all involved. The points I have raised are meant to be constructive as we would look forward to a similar experience next year.

I thought this was an excellent experience for the pupils and I would recommend that it takes place again next year. As a teacher I also learned lots!

Thank-you to the staff of Broomlee and to Emma for being a fab Co-ordinator. The children really enjoyed their experience and from the sounds of things have gained a lot of confidence in preparing themselves for their primary 7 week away next year.

Although I have mentioned a few areas for improvement on the whole the experience was great and these are only ideas in how to make a brand new scheme even better and more successful.

Thanks Again.

All the staff were friendly and helpful and keen that we should enjoy our visit.

I thoroughly enjoyed this well organised and beneficial trip. It was a learning experience for me as much as the children.

## Overall Evaluation Summary

The feedback from the residential experiences overall was positive as there were very few responses out with the categories of **good** to **excellent**. Some minor areas of development were apparent and will be investigated and considered to aid the development for future years, thus creating a foundation for best practice. The coordination and planning required to ensure every P6 in the authority was given this opportunity is not to be under estimated, however, this experience and consultation will aid in the planning for future years. Furthermore, Inverclyde has received national recognition for this approach from Learning Teaching Scotland, education journals and national newspapers.

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