**Sample letter: School Vegan Food**

Dear [Head]

I am writing to ask that you ensure that my child is provided with food that is suitable for vegans.

[Detail of the situation – does the school canteen have no vegan options? Is your child entitled to free school meals but is not able to take them up because there is no suitable food? What has been the consequence for them / you as a result of the lack of provision?]

Veganism is a way of living which seeks to exclude, as far as is possible and practicable, all forms of exploitation and killing of animals for food, clothing or any other purpose. [They/we] live [their/our life/lives] according to this moral philosophy. This means that [they/we] do not consume animals nor anything taken from an animal: animal or fish flesh, animal milk or other dairy products, eggs or honey.

Our right to live according to our fundamental conviction that it is wrong to use and kill non-human animals is protected under human rights law and equality law. This means that education providers have an obligation not to interfere with my right to live according to my conviction, and to avoid any discrimination or harassment on the grounds of veganism. For more information about the legal rights of vegans please see: <https://goveganworld.com/vegan-rights/> By failing to provide vegan food [name of school ] is in breach of these obligations by indirectly discriminating against [my child].

I appreciate that schools work with a tight budget and that they must cater to all, but it is entirely possible to provide good vegan food within the school budget, as many schools already do without difficulty. There is no justification for failing to provide for vegans.

Moreover, as a public entity [name of school] is bound by the Public Sector Equality Duty, which requires them to have due regard for the need to eliminate unlawful discrimination, advance equal opportunity and foster good relations, including by taking steps to meet the needs of people from protected groups. It would be in line with this duty to incorporate nutritious plant-based meals on your standard menu every day, available to everyone. Vegan pupils would not have to make special requests, reducing the likelihood of error, and everyone would have the option of good vegan meals. Food that is suitable for vegans is inclusive and in general can be enjoyed by everyone. It can also be highly nutritious, with all of the leading dietetic associations recognising that fully plant-based diets are suitable for every age and life stage.

Plant foods are much more sustainable, environment and climate friendly, which is why the public sector is being urged by climate change policy advisors to lead the way in a shift to plant-based eating, by including good vegan options on its standard menus every day, available to everyone.

The Vegan Society can help your catering team to add good vegan options to your menu. They have an in-house dietitian who can help with balanced meals and answer any questions you may have. You can contact Heather Russell on nutrition@vegansociety.com. They also have resources for caterers here: <https://www.vegansociety.com/cateringforeveryone>.

I hope you will acknowledge that I should have been provided with vegan options during my stay and that you will agree that vegan options ought to be offered to everyone every day.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely

[your name]