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 of, and cruelty to, 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 anything that has been taken from an animal.

Our right to live according to the 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 state schools must not interfere with our right to freedom of conscience and they have a responsibility under the Equality Act 2010 to avoid any discrimination on the grounds of veganism. By failing to provide vegan food [name of school] is in breach of these rights.

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 look at developing good, tasty, nutritious plant-based meals on all your standard menus.

I appreciate that schools work with a tight budget and that they must cater to all. It is possible to provide good vegan food within the school budget, and many schools already provide very good vegan options. Moreover, food that is suitable for vegans is inclusive as it can be enjoyed by everyone. If you included good vegan options on your standard daily menus you would find that non-vegans would also select these dishes.

There are other benefits to increasing the amount of plant-based options on your menus. Plant-based options have a far lesser negative impact on the environment and on climate change, and plant-based foods can be highly nutritious. All of the leading dietetic associations, including the British Dietetic Association, recognise that totally plant-based diets are suitable for every age and life stage.

The Vegan Society can help your catering team to add good vegan options to your menus. 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 my child should be provided with vegan options 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]