(Assume parent/guardian sending email)

Dear Head teacher of [School name],

It has been brought to my/our attention that you intend to bring a butterfly hatchery into the classroom to enhance the topic that (Year\_/class\_) are currently learning. I/We can appreciate that real-life experiences are an important part of school life and can help children to make the connection between what they are learning inside the classroom and the wider world. However, as the parent of a vegan child in your class, I would ask you to please reconsider.

You may or may not know, veganism is a protected philosophy and 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. From our perspective, caterpillars and butterflies used in hatcheries are being exploited; therefore, our/my child (insert name) will not feel comfortable taking part in this activity, any pre-learning activities prior to their arrival or recount work afterwards. Consequently, the planned use of a butterfly hatchery is both excluding my child and extremely upsetting for (him/her/them).

**Inclusive**

As you will be aware, discrimination against vegans is prohibited under equality law.

**Animal Rights**

Caterpillars and butterflies are an essential part of our ecosystem which is being threatened with the release of different butterfly species into non-native areas.

Often when butterflies are released, the area is not checked to see whether it can properly sustain them.

Certain aspects of the classroom environment such as noise, tampering and temperature are not ideal for the caterpillars and may cause a difficult metamorphosis or death.

The practice of keeping butterflies as ‘pets’ or as a learning resource is cruel and outdated. Insects are sentient, have every right to their freedom and deserve our respect.

**Disease and illness**

Children removing the lid of the hatchery may introduce harmful bacteria into the cup causing death.

**Is it educational?**

Rather than focusing on a short-lived project in the classroom, why not instead focus on the importance of preserving our natural environment and helping the declining butterfly population? This real-world lesson, that could include wildflower planting, would foster a sense of responsibility in your learners and encourage them to help improve our dwindling butterfly populations, naturally. Seeing happy butterflies around a Buddleia plant at the window would still encourage a sense of awe.

By having (captive/caged) insects in your classroom you are not providing an honest learning experience.

I/We have not made this request lightly, as I/we know how hard you work and how far in advance you must plan your termly work and activities. For more information you can request free CPD training on vegan inclusion from The Vegan Society or visit The Vegan Society’s [Education](https://www.vegansociety.com/lifestyle/vegan-inclusive-education) page.

A concise guide for educators on how to provide a vegan-inclusive education can be found [here](https://www.vegansociety.com/sites/default/files/uploads/downloads/TVS_Education%20Booklet_A5_DIGITAL.pdf).

Thank you for reading this letter. I/We would be more than happy to work in partnership with you on any issues raised because of my/our request.

Yours sincerely,

[Sender name]