Dear [Head teacher],

I am writing on behalf of my [CHILD, the NAME family], who is about to join your school in September, to kindly consider our request that a plant-based alternative to dairy milk be provided.

As you are likely aware, cow’s milk is routinely available to school pupils to support good health.

However, [CHILD NAME] is vegan and does not drink cow’s milk. Instead, [CHILD NAME], and all vegan children, obtain valuable nutrition from a suitably fortified plant-based alternative.

The School Food Standards recognise unsweetened soya drinks enriched with calcium as a healthy drink.

Veganism is a philosophy and way of life that seeks to avoid the exploitation of other animals. Furthermore, the moral convictions of vegans are protected under both human rights and equality law. Under human rights law, public bodies must ensure that vegans have access to their fundamental right to live with compassion, and under the Equality Act 2010 it is prohibited to discriminate against vegans.

Additionally, as a public entity, your school is bound by the Public Sector Equality Duty, which requires you to have due regard for the need to eliminate unlawful discrimination, advance equal opportunity, including taking steps to meet the needs of people from protected groups, and foster good relations between vegans and non-vegans. By failing to ensure vegans have access to a healthy alternative to cow’s milk, the school could be found in breach of its legal duty to accommodate the dietary needs of vegans.

As a minimum, it would be acceptable to allow us, [CHILD NAME] family, to self-supply an appropriate alternative to cow’s milk, but it would be very well received if you were to provide, on [her/his/their] behalf, a recommended fortified plant-based milk.

[I/We] look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

[Your Name]