(Assume parent/guardian sending email)

Dear Head teacher of [School name],

I/We (am/are) writing to you because (my child/name of child)has informed me that some of the songs and rhymes that you sing in school are not vegan-inclusive. I/We think that it is brilliant that you are providing (my/our child/name of child) with the opportunity to sing. It is a wonderful form of expression which (he/she/they) thoroughly enjoys taking part in. However, my/our child, [Child’s name], is vegan. I/We value the creativity and expression that your music provision offers your learners and would like my/our child to be able to take part in accordance with their beliefs.

The definition of veganism is as follows: 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. Therefore, singing songs and rhymes which contradict our beliefs can be confusing and upsetting for (my child/name of child*)*.

I/We would be appreciative if you would reflect on the content of the songs my child found upsetting, and others, such as, ‘Old Macdonald had a Farm’, ‘One, Two, Three, Four, Five, Once I Caught a Fish Alive’ and ‘Baa Baa Black Sheep’ and consider the learning taking place and conflict it may cause to vegan children.

**Tradition**

Singing traditional songs and rhymes about farmed animals and free-living, caught animals may seem educational, innocent and harmless. However, non-human animals are treated cruelly in these industries, and these songs and rhymes are providing a false narrative of the welfare of other animals. For the most part, they are outdated and do not depict the modern horror that is intensive farming, which equates to [70%](https://www.thebureauinvestigates.com/stories/2017-07-17/intensive-numbers-of-intensive-farming) of animal production in the United Kingdom.

**Compassion**

Teaching children to be kind, caring and compassionate to all, is without question, the right thing to do. There are a wide variety of songs and rhymes which do not involve this cruelty. (My child/name of child’s) favourites are ‘The Wheels on the Bus’ and ‘Wind the Bobbin up’. Equally so, you can use your creativity to make up better, kinder versions of these outdated traditional songs and rhymes with the children.

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).

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.

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]