(Assume parent/carer sending email)

Dear Head teacher of [School name],

It has been brought to my/our attention that you intend to visit an aquarium as a way of enhancing the topic that Year\_/class\_ are currently learning. I/We can appreciate that real-life experiences are an important part of school life and really help children to make the connection between what they are learning inside the classroom and the wider world. However, I am /we are writing to ask you to consider vegan-inclusive practice when delivering this topic. My/Our child, [Child’s name], is vegan and I/we would like my/our child to be able to take part in this learning, but in accordance with their beliefs.

You may, or may not, know that 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/my perspective, non-human animals used in an aquarium are being exploited; therefore, our/my child [insert name] will not feel comfortable taking part in the visit, any pre-learning activities prior to the visit, or any recount work undertaken afterwards. Consequently, the planned use of an aquarium visit is both excluding to my/our child and extremely upsetting for (him/her/them).

**Animal Rights**

Aquatic animals who would naturally roam their underwater habitat and engage in a variety of wonderful, natural behaviours including socialising with others of their species, foraging, hunting and defending territories are completely denied the opportunity to have any of these experiences when they are captive*.*

Individuals display behaviours that demonstrate stress and boredom in cramped and lonely living conditions that are unnatural and dangerous, especially when considering the toxicity of chemical substances in aquaculture.

Aquatic animals are sentient beings who share this planet with us; they have every right to their freedom and deserve our respect.

**Is it really educational?**

By viewing caged/captive aquatic animals in an aquarium you are not providing an honest learning experience.

Aquaria themselves often claim that their existence is geared towards educating children about the oceans, seas and aquatic animals. What they are actually learning is that society views it as acceptable to keep aquatic animals in captivity for human enjoyment.

**Alternatives**

So that the children do not miss out on an exciting experience, they could take nature walks to see other non-human animals in a local pond or river. You could arrange an aquatic animal fancy dress day, watch a great documentary, watch Finding Nemo ™ as the fish characters experience a family separation. Additionally, you could arrange talks from an animal charity such as [The Vegan Society](https://www.vegansociety.com/lifestyle/vegan-inclusive-education) or [Animal Aid](https://www.animalaid.org.uk/education/request-school-speaker/).

You can make any topic exciting, remembering that the children in your class have never, and will never, meet a T-Rex but are in awe of them. This wonder and awe can also be generated about a dolphin, shark or starfish without visiting an aquarium.

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 lessons 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]