(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 (chick/duck) hatchery into the classroom to enhance the topic that (Year\_/class\_) are currently learning. I 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, chick and duck hatcheries used as learning resources in class constitute exploitation of non-human animals; 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 (chick/duck) hatchery is both excluding my child and extremely upsetting for (him/her/them).

So that you can understand our perspective I/we have outlined below several additional reasons why I/we wish for you to reconsider introducing a (chick/duck) hatchery into the classroom.

**Inclusive**

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

**Animal Rights**

The very nature of this practice creates a welfare catastrophe for the (chicks/ducks) being used. Birds, that would naturally roam their habitats and engage in a variety of wonderful, natural behaviours, including foraging, are completely denied the opportunity to have any of these experiences when used and confined in a (chick/duck) hatchery. Chicks are separated from their mothers who naturally communicate with them before they hatch and who nurture them when they are born. Birds are sentient, have every right to their freedom and deserve our respect.

**Disease and illness**

Even though you will undoubtedly carry out a risk assessment, there is still a concern regarding the spread of disease when using (chick/duck) hatcheries. Poultry have notoriously been linked with numerous outbreaks of diseases and even healthy birds may harbour potentially zoonotic organisms such as salmonella and campylobacter.

**Is it educational?**

By having (captive/caged) birds in your classroom you are not providing an honest learning experience, especially if your focus is the life cycle because the chicks will be separated from their mother and raised unnaturally.

The [RSPCA](https://education.rspca.org.uk/documents/1494931/0/Animal%2BFriendly%2BSchools%2BGuidance%2B%285%29.pdf/c7c5fe97-e5a6-fa47-6205-8d22d45cf7c2?t=1558518337650) strongly discourages the keeping of non-human animals in schools. Schools can be noisy and frightening places for some animals. The RSPCA also say that it is difficult to look after any animal’s needs properly in a classroom environment.

So that the children do not miss out on an exciting experience, you could take nature walks to see other animals in their natural habitats or visit a sanctuary. You could arrange a non-human animal fancy dress day, watch a great documentary, create your own free-living space, or 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/).

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]