{*School name*}

{*Date*}

Dear {*Head teacher’s name*},

I trust that this letter finds you in good health and that you are keeping safe amidst everything that is happening.

I must express my sincere gratitude and admiration for the effort and support the {*Enter the appropriate year of your child*} teachers put into making the home-schooling experience seamless and as well as fun. My {*son’s/ daughter’s*} teacher has been amazing in supporting and motivating {*his / her*} with kind and generous comments and notes on {*his / her*} schoolwork.

I would like to say that I am proud that my {*son / daughter*} attends {*primary school name*}. It is an outstanding school and has been so for many years. The school is accommodating to diverse cultures and ethnicities. However, the current focus in the media on the challenges faced by BAME and in particular the black communities has brought to the forefront of my mind some of my {*son’s/ daughter’s*} experiences at school. I set out a couple of examples below:

* {*S/He*} came home and told me that a classmate had called {*his / her*} ‘poopoo’ because of the colour of the skin. I did raise it with {*his / her*} teacher at the time and I believe {*S/he*} handled it appropriately.
* I also find a general misrepresentation of Africa. An innocent experience was when the school ran an initiative to send used books back to Africa. This also created a teachable moment for me to explain to {*his / her*} the importance of being charitable. However, a few days later {*S/he*} made a comment that stung. {*S/He*} asked, “why isn’t there any new books in Africa?”
* Very recently we had a debate on why “God” must always be white and cannot be black. {*His / Her*} justification was that when {*s/he*} made God in {*his / her*} class it was white. We carried on the conversation and {*s/he*} made the same justification on why there can’t be black angels.
* I remember {*his / her*} being very anxious about presenting {*his / her*} culture to {*his / her*} class because {*s/he*} felt that her peers will make fun on {*his / her*} and will not accept that part of {*his / her*}.
* Last year, my {*son / daughter*} came home advising me of a song they sing in school with {*his / her*} friend. The song goes like this “Black skin, black skin, when are you leaving”.

{*Please add or delete your child’s experience here*}

I understand children are curious, opinionated and are sometimes prone to make comments that may be offensive due to their limited understanding of the world and societal norms. Therefore, I think it is important for parents to educate their children on and expose their children to cultures that are different from their own.

Schools also have a crucial role to play in this. I consider that schools could do more to ensure inclusion and diversity in the curriculum and delivery of it. The following questions may be a useful starting point:

* Do books contained in the library reflect diversity and inclusion?
* Do the scenarios and stories presented in teaching reflect diversity and inclusion?
* How do we represent other cultures and countries?

{*Please add or delete your recommendations to this list*}

{*primary school name*} may have its own carefully curated activities to teach diversity, but please allow me to share a few more ideas on how to promote other cultures, which may be incorporated into your broader curriculum

* Cultural day to showcase the various cultures and diversity
* Movie day to show films with an ethnic theme
* Invite people to come and give a talk
* Encourage children to read books of other cultures. I am happy to donate books that celebrate the African heritage.
* Careful thoughts and research to be conducted before representing other cultures, countries, or continent.
* The celebration of Black History Month

{*Please add or delete your recommendations to this list*}

I believe addressing these issues will help expose all students to the diverse world that we live in. It will help them understand other ethnicities, handle unconscious biases and broaden their horizon. The hope is that this would minimise the chances of black children having negative experiences such as those involving my son which I have set out above.

I would also be interested to understand the procedures and policies you have in place on:

1. Discrimination (of any kind)

* How to recognise it?
* How to prevent it?
* How to deal with it if it does happen?

2. Training for educators and admin staff on unconscious bias.

3. Inclusion and diversity in curriculum. I think it is important that we emphasize diversity within the curriculum regardless of diversity of student or staff.

Thank you for your time and consideration of the points mentioned. I understand that this may be a sensitive topic to address. However, I think it is important that it should be addressed. It is important that all children feel that they belong and that their culture is valued and celebrated.

I wish to re-emphasise the amazing work that you do for the children in the school. Whilst my {*son / daughter*} is incredibly happy at the school, I believe we need to come together to find ways to make this brilliant system and school even better for our children.

I look forward to hearing from you on the procedures and policies noted above. Also, I am happy to discuss the possible options I put forward.

In addition, I would like to introduce you to a charity called AfriKidZ Club they help in achieving diversity and inclusion objectives, amongst others. For more information check out their website [www.afrikidzclub.com](http://www.afrikidzclub.com).

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely.

{*Your name*}