

Please fill in the green text, as you customise your complaint letter.

Please remove the red text, as it is just additional information.

[Your contact details]

[Date]

*[Place the institution/school contact
Details here as per a
Business letter]*

Dear *[Sir/Madam/Principal]*

I am the parent of *[child's full name]*, a learner at *[child's school]*, located at *[address]*. It has come to my attention that my child has experienced discrimination against *[him|her]* due to *[having been identified as [religious or non-religious belief]]* and coming from a family which has a different belief than the belief system practiced or promulgated at *[child's school]*.

In particular, my child has been subjected to *[insults/humiliation/ostracism/bullying/disciplinary procedures/threats/enforced participation]*.

[Provide a description of the event(s) which has led to this point]

As a result of being uncomfortable with the aforementioned this letter is addressed for your attention.

I must emphasise that I am not against religious observances, or those practiced in the school, which are protected by the Constitution. However, the same rights extend to my child.

As per Section 15 of the Constitution of South Africa, 1996 as amended; Section 7(2) of the same; the South African Schools Act (84 of 1996), Section 7; and the High Court ruling in Gauteng of 28 June 2017, all of which guarantees freedom of religion and exemption from enforced religious practice, I hereby request that the following remedies be effected immediately at the school:

[Remove the bullets reflecting actions that you do not want, and add any bullets reflecting actions that you do want, from the below:]

1. That the school *[child's school's name]* immediately cease in declaring itself to have a faith-based ethos and remove all visible signs of its faith-basis;
2. That the school and its officials immediately cease in discriminating against my child by enforcing the declared faith, specifically,
 - a. That my child be exempted from any religious observances, practices, celebrations, songs or prayers which are incompatible with our family's beliefs;
 - b. That my child be not subjected to any humiliation, singling-out, or other attention-drawing practices intended to humiliate or ostracise my child, by your school or its employees or its learners;
 - c. That the school teach religious education (covering all religions equally), not religious instruction (in one religion only), and that if my child wishes to opt out of such instruction, that she/he may do so without consequence;

- d. That your school offer alternatives to religious classes for my child and all other children in this circumstance, such as moral education, philosophy classes, etc., which are secular in nature; and
- e. That your teaching staff and learners be made aware of the provisions of the laws above which prohibit them from discriminating against, or humiliating my child any further.

I am aware of the options of home schooling or of identifying an alternative school, however, for financial and logistical reasons these options are not open to me.

According to the South African National Census of 2001, approximately 15.1% of people do not identify with any religion in South Africa. These school learners and/or parents may be adversely affected by your policies.

As a state school which is obligated to adhere to the laws of the land as identified above, the school has a duty to comply with the law, which is to not discriminate on any grounds against anyone, in this case, religion. I therefore require a written response to this matter in which you assure me that you will comply with the above requests in full.

Yours faithfully

[Your name]