**Model letter to schools re Operation Christmas Child**

**[School address]**

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to express my concern about the participation of **[insert name of school]** in Operation Christmas Child this year.

Whilst I absolutely support the efforts of the school to involve pupils in charitable giving, and to encourage them to think about those less fortunate than themselves, the evangelical Christian mission of Operation Christmas Child is extremely problematic and one that I do not think the school should be supporting.

As you may or may not be aware, Operation Christmas Child is run by the evangelical Christian organisation *Samaritan’s Purse*, which seeks to use the shoeboxes donated by parents and children as part of its Christian mission around the world. When shoeboxes are distributed by *Samaritan’s Purse*, evangelical literature is added alongside, aiming to convert recipients to Christianity. This tends to come in the form of a booklet called *The Greatest Journey*, which you can read more about online.

Using the donations of parents and children as a tool for evangelising is clearly inappropriate, not least given how vulnerable many of the people are who receive these gifts.

I would therefore ask that the school ends its involvement with Operation Christmas Child, and instead gets involved in a different charity. There are plenty of other options that are more in keeping with the charitable intentions of both parents and children, so there is no reason for this to result in the school dropping its Christmas charity drive altogether. Indeed, Link to Hope (itself a Christian charity) runs a similar shoebox appeal, but with no ulterior motive. And, a range of other charities like Oxfam and Children Need have Christmas appeals too.

Please do let me know what decision the school takes. If you would like to discuss this further, I am happy to talk.

Yours sincerely,

**[Name]**