

## A brief introduction to the Saint Vincent de Paul Society (SVP) Young Vincentians

### Welcome to the Vincentian Family!

The SVP was started by a university student, Blessed Frederic Ozanam, when he was 19 years old, studying law at the University of the Sorbonne. We are dedicated to enabling young people to maintain the youthful vision of the Society's Founder and empowering young people to live a life of Vincentian charity.



### Young Vincentians Apostolates

There are 4 youth apostolates within the Saint Vincent de Paul Society England and Wales for children, adolescents, teenagers, and young adults.

- Mini Vinnies serves primary school children, ages 7-11 year olds;
- Youth SVP' serves adolescents and teenagers aged 11-14;
- B-Attitude' serves those aged 14-18;
- SVP Young Adults including SVP 1833 open to those age 18-35.

#### Mini Vinnie: 7-11 years old.

Mini Vinnies are the youngest members of the SVP family who get together, organise and talk about helping others in need within their school community or Parish and beyond. What makes Mini Vinnies such a valuable experience for the children who are part of it, is the change it makes in school and Parish communities. Mini Vinnies' groups usually meet once a week or fortnight during lunchtime, after school or after a mass.

## Youth SVP: 11-14 years old.

In secondary schools and parishes. Meetings take place as frequently as once a week or as infrequently as every four weeks, depending on the availability and prioritisation of the young people concerning their academic routines. In schools, groups meet usually during lunchtimes or after school, and in parishes, groups often meet as part of a common youth group incentive. Groups can choose to alternate between their meetings with spiritual input and their voluntary activities, or could decide to have combined sessions which contain both.

## B-Attitude: 14-18 years old.

Works exactly the same as Youth SVP with the same level and kind of commitment. 'Learn', 'live', and 'love' are the 3 key principles by which our B-Attitude-ers really start to develop a Vincentian lifestyle. At this stage they are capable of immense empathy and become some of Justice's greatest champions, with strong desires to engage in leadership and service

The young people themselves should identify and react to the needs in their local community, work closely with their Vincentian Coordinator and embrace more fully their role in their group. At this stage, the members are more capable of forming 'working relationships' with their local adult SVP Conferences. Printed spiritual resources are provided for the development of Youth SVP members' faith.

## SVP Young Adults including SVP 1833

This Apostolate is open to 18 – 35 year olds. These are typically in University, but open to groups based in colleges or parishes. It is the closest apostolate to that of our founder's. Recalling the year the Society was first founded. 1833 Members generously give of their term times to local people in need, operating in almost the same way as SVP adult conferences.

## How can Young People help in their School/Parish?

- Welcoming and reading at Mass
- Helping with assemblies
- Helping with the Breakfast Club/homework club
- Helping with the Church garden
- Making and sending Christmas cards to the sick or housebound
- Singing carols in residential homes
- Inviting parishioners to a tea party or concert in church or school hall
- Helping with food/clothes collections e.g for the food bank
- Helping with Children's Liturgy
- Helping with getting the Church ready for Easter/Christmas and other occasions
- Collaborate in projects with the Local Adult SVP Conference



<https://www.svp.org.uk/mini-vinnies>

<https://www.svp.org.uk/youth-svp>

<https://www.svp.org.uk/b-attitude>

<https://www.svp.org.uk/svpyoungadults>



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