

- Not engaging in any form of bullying
- Tidying up for each other after lessons
- Offering help whenever and wherever there might be even a small need
- Sharing things with each other, and then giving those things back after we have borrowed them
- Making a big effort to celebrate each others' birthdays in a unique way to the person.

6. Arrange a date and time for your MVDO to give a presentation to the potential Mini Vinnies. This could be done during a Mass, Liturgy or assembly, where the VC receives the box of resources from the MVDO.
7. As soon as possible after the presentation – ideally the next day – hold the first meeting for the children signing up. This is where the members resources are distributed to each child, apart from the certificates. At the same time, your MVDO will be registering your Mini Vinnies Conference with National Office. The Commissioning Ceremony follows this.
8. From this point on, the MVDOs are available to support your budding Mini Vinnies Conference, but the majority of interaction will take place between the VC and National Office (and a local adult SVP conference where applicable).

How do I know what's appropriate activity for the children or young people to do in the future?

Your local adult SVP coordinator and the MVDO will be able to advise you, but the main restriction is that young people under 18 are not permitted to undertake visits to private homes, even with an adult SVP member supervising. However, there are many other valuable things that child or youth members can do – see the examples above.

How do I find more information?

Call 0207 703 3030 or email youngvincentians@svp.org.uk. Also, visit www.minivinnies.org.uk.



INTRODUCTION TO SETTING UP A MINI VINNIIES GROUP

There are apostolates within the Saint Vincent de Paul Society aimed specifically at children, adolescents, teenagers and young adults. **Mini Vinnies serves primary school children, ages 7-11, and our excellent resources and activities empower our young people to not only undertake voluntary work in their local community while developing their faith and spirituality, but also begin making concrete acts of charity with the person who sits next to them at class.**

All activities are supervised by responsible adults and are appropriate to the applicable age groups.

If you are a parent or teacher who is interested in starting a Mini Vinnies group in your local school, just follow this simple guide...



Step-by-step guide

1. Identify someone within the school to act as the adult supervisor to set up the group, attend meetings and to encourage and advise members. These supervisors are called Vincentian Coordinators (VC). This may be you or someone else, or you may share the role with others. All VCs must be DBS checked in the last three years.
2. Contact SVP National Office on 0207 703 3030 to tell them of your plans. You will be allocated a Mini Vinnies Development Officer (MVDO) to help you with organisation and to provide resources. You, any other coordinators and the MVDO will need to meet to prepare your plan.
3. Get the support of the head teacher, and make contact with the most local adult SVP conference to the school before you proceed further.
4. Next, identify a target group – it could be a particular school year (with the SVP group running within RE classes, for example) or it could be a lunchtime or after-school club.



5. With the MVDO you should now start planning the external activities for your new Conference. You need to have activities already in mind, ready to start as soon as your Conference begins. These need to be checked beforehand.

Planned external activities could include:

- Having food collections (for a local food bank, for example)
- Helping with assemblies
- Making and sending Christmas cards
- Carol singing in residential homes
- Reading at Mass

Internal activities to be encouraged include:

- Befriending school newcomers
- Helping teachers carry books and other items
- Holding doors open for each other

