

# Info sheet for parents



## What is Mini Vinnies?

'Mini Vinnies' is an SSVP Group in a Primary School. It is a group of young people aged 7-11 who get together, organise and talk about helping others in need within their school community 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 communities. Mini Vinnies' groups usually meet once a week or fortnight during lunchtime or after school and are either run by school staff members, an SSVP Conference Member or a combination of both.

## What happens at a Mini Vinnies' meeting?

A 'President' is elected by the Mini Vinnies to lead the meeting and help to organise the group. An adult will co-ordinate the group and give help and practical advice. Meetings should be as brief as possible.

- The President opens the meeting with a prayer.
- A short spiritual reading/reflection/piece of music/meditation follows. The Group members could take turns to do this.
- Group members then talk about the Mini Vinnies' activities they have done since the previous meeting.
- Any future plans are then discussed.
- The President concludes the meeting with a prayer.

With support from the school and the local SSVP, the Mini Vinnies will then carry out their plans to help those in need in their communities.

**Further information on Mini Vinnies and the SSVP is available at**

**[www.ssvpscotland.com/ssvpyouth/mini-vinnies](http://www.ssvpscotland.com/ssvpyouth/mini-vinnies)**

