

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

