



## Mini Vinnies: New School Questions

### What is Mini Vinnies?

Mini Vinnies is a group of primary school young people who get together to help those in need within their school community. Mini Vinnies introduces children to social justice issues, to the St Vincent de Paul Society and to living faith through action.

### What does a Mini Vinnies group do?

Mini Vinnies is about doing good works in the community, but it is also about young people meeting to talk and share ideas and concerns, to have fun and to support each other. The Vinnies model of 'See, Think, Do' is a great way to get young people thinking and talking about their spirituality; by connecting their beliefs and values with service activities and issues in their community, they can help make their faith real, meaningful and relevant.

Typically the group will meet regularly and will set goals on what they want to do and achieve. The group will look at why they need to do something and how they will do it.

### How can our group learn?

You can choose to take a term by term approach.

Term One- learn about Caritas and opportunities for giving. Raise awareness on overseas aid and what other children are facing.

Term Two- Look at homelessness and what issues the children can see in their local area. Support the Vinnies Winter Appeal in some way.

Term Three- learn about what the school has to say about charity, research the school's charism and Social Justice in general, what does it all mean?

Term Four- Learn about the different causes of Poverty, look at what the community can do to improve this. Support the Vinnies Christmas Appeal in some way.

Alternatively you can order some Mini Vinnies Fact sheets and work your way through each of those.

### Where do the Vinnies staff fit in?

Staff members can teach you and the students about how many schools participate in Mini Vinnies, what other schools do and the different types of structures all of the schools have.

We are here to help and support and are more than happy to present workshops or seminars on anything you may want the children to learn about.

Staff can send through resources and articles and provide insight on how to follow through any new ideas the children may have.

Staff can attend meetings just to say hi and are just generally the face of Vinnies for both teachers and students.

