



"Praying together,
Learning for life,
Caring for all"

St Joseph's Catholic Primary School

Mini Vinnies



Saint Vincent de Paul



The **patron saint** of charitable societies, **St. Vincent de Paul** is primarily recognized for his charity and compassion for the poor.

The Society of St Vincent de Paul has been engaging with young people and education since its earliest days. Today the SVP has strong links with young people, through the development of a 'Mini Vinnies' programme - a Primary Schools initiative, which is seen as having, "the potential to significantly contribute to the future of our Society."

Mini Vinnies is about encouraging the children to think about and do good work in the community, as well as meeting to talk, to share ideas and concerns, to have fun and to support each other. The SSVP model of faith in action is also a great way to get the children thinking and talking about their spirituality – connecting their beliefs and values. Supporting and engaging in the local community can help to make their faith real and meaningful.

The Saint Joseph's Mini Vinnies and Faith Council meet each week during lunchtimes. Our Mini Vinnie members gather, pray together and talk about those around them who need our help, within our 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 to our school community where we build on Catholic Social Teaching.

By becoming a Mini Vinnie and taking an active role in the group, could be the start of becoming a "Vicentian for life".

"I really like being a Mini Vinnie because I want to make a change for the whole world and to be beside Jesus. In my heart, I feel really proud of myself."

Orna: age 9



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What do Mini Vinnies do?

See...

Education and awareness. The children develop an awareness of society and the struggles faced by groups of people. They are aware of our beautiful world and know we must do everything we can to preserve it.

Think...

Formation. Being part of the Mini Vinnies group allows the children to take part in spiritual activities, develop an understanding of the world and take part in discussion developing a sense of justice for all.

Do...

Community service and fundraising. 'Doing' - the children can address some of the issues they have been discussing and been thinking about and if there is any action they can take as a group to support the issue. Recently, the Minnie Vinnies have been involved in developing designs for the new prayer garden as well as collecting baby items for Trafford Little Bundles and raising money by selling tickets for someone to be "PE Assistant Coach" for the day.

Mini Vinnies meetings

- Firstly, a "President" is elected. This person with the support of an adult will lead and organise the meeting.
- Each meeting will begin with a prayer – music will play and there will be either a reading or a prayer or some other kind of reflection.
- The agenda is then discussed, usually an action from the previous meeting or future actions to be taken.
- A prayer concludes the meeting.
- The children can volunteer to lead these prayers

<http://www.minivinnies.org.uk/>

As Mini Vinnies, the children have their own 'treasured' Prayer, Pledge and Badge, a dedicated website and a range of bright and colourful documents which guide them in their formative steps - helping and enabling them to become in every sense, young Vincentians - or 'Mini Vinnies'.

