

Let us do without hesitation whatever good lies at our hands - Bl. Frederic Ozanam (founder)

MINI VINNIES

WHAT IS MINI VINNIES?

Mini Vinnies are groups of primary school aged children who are committed to making a positive difference to their world through simple but effective initiatives. It is a way to make beliefs and values meaningful and relevant through action. Mini Vinnies aims to replicate the wider St Vincent de Paul conference model where people meet to pray, reflect and engage in activities that help others in need.

Mini Vinnies are connected with the wider St Vincent de Paul Society through the works they do. In this way, they too are part of an international network of lay people committed to social justice. Schools are encouraged to commission their Mini Vinnies and present them with a special badge.



WHAT DO MINI VINNIES DO?

Responding to the call to love our neighbour, Mini Vinnies meet regularly to learn about and discuss community issues that are important to them. They explore ways to make a hands on difference to the community. The program provides students with leadership opportunities and is a challenging and rewarding experience – it is also lots of fun too!

Mini Vinnies are encouraged to 'SEE – THINK – DO' which is based upon the popular Young Christian Workers model of 'See Judge Act'.

SEE – Education and awareness – What is happening, why and to whom?

THINK - Formation – How do I feel about this? What does my faith and values say about this?

DO - Community service and fundraising – What can I do now to help?

Mini Vinnies encourages students to think deeper about their actions. It requires students to invest their own time and talents to understanding the issue behind the activity, relating it to personal values, and reflecting on how it will benefit others.

For more information about starting a Mini Vinnies at your school:

www.vinnies.net.au/vic/what-is-mini-vinnies/

or email: schools@svdp-vic.org.au

