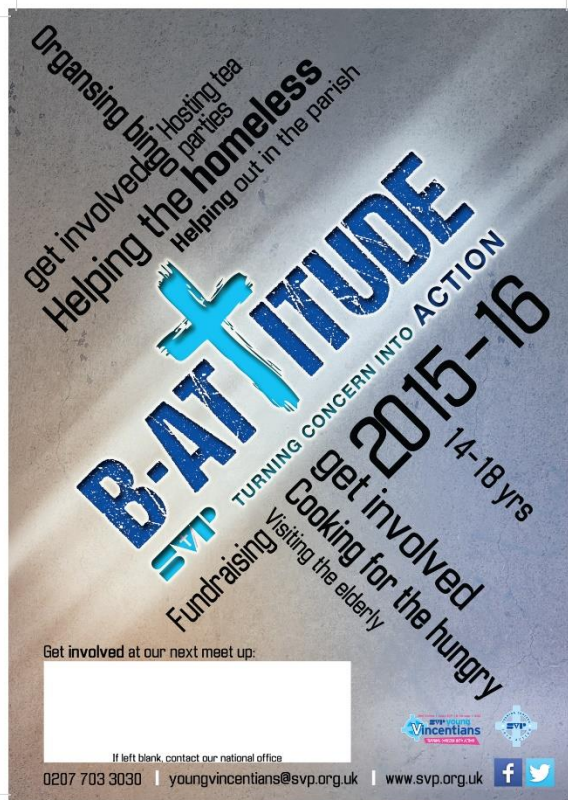


around 2 meetings, and some research of local projects the young people can be involved in. This step could take anything between 3 weeks and 3 months!

Step 3 – Presentation to the young people, followed by a Commissioning Ceremony or Mass.

If you wish to start up a B-Attitude group, or feel drawn to revitalising your existing group as a B-Attitude group, please get in touch with your local Young Vincentians Development Officer or with us at National Office!



## FAQ

(2015-2016 version)

### 1) What is SVP B-Attitude?

B-Attitude is our brand new *apostolate* for 14-18 year olds (but not strictly enforced). Named after the Beatitudes (aka the works of mercy) found in Mt 5:3-10, this group's focus is to embrace internally what they are already practicing externally in their Vincentian works of charity. It is a Christian apostolate formed of young people who volunteer in putting their faith into action. We have many generous and dedicated young people across England and Wales who give support to people in their schools, parishes, and further out in the wider community – meeting them person to person and trying to assist them in any way they can, whilst growing in spirituality.

### 2) What is an 'apostolate'?

An apostolate fulfils specific functions in the Church and the world. Every Christian is a missionary to the extent that he or she has encountered the love of God in Christ Jesus: we no longer say that we are "disciples" and "missionaries", but rather that we are always "missionary disciples". The Greek word *apostoloi* means "emissaries", those who are sent on behalf of another. It refers to the call made by Jesus Christ to his apostles to continue His own mission: announce the Kingdom of God throughout the world. "As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you" (Jn 20:21; cf. Jn 13:20; 17, 18). As Young Vincentians, we have been entrusted with the mission of serving the marginalised, the disadvantaged, and the vulnerable, in the same spirit as our founder Bl. Frederic Ozanam and patron St. Vincent de Paul.

### 3) Who is it for?

B-Attitude can be formed of pupils in schools, or young people at a parish. The guidance age would be between 14 & 18 years old, although we are not enforcing these as strict guidelines. The age guideline is there simply because the resources being developed for this apostolate are being written to suit the intellectual and emotional capacities of young people this age. In parishes, B-Attitude may serve as an excellent post-confirmation bridge into full adult service in the Church. The group is meant to be ran by the young people themselves, with assistance from a

Vincentian Coordinator (see point 7). The kind of person who joins the group would typically:

- Have a strong sense of justice along with a genuine care and concern for others
- Interested in some elements of the faith, and would be interested in growing in this area of themselves
- More impacted by seeing people put their faith into action than by what is said at a homily
- Want to be surrounded by friends who want to live good lives based on healthy principles and morals

#### 4) What sort of activities do B-Attitude members do?

Since the apostolate is new, we can't give a list of activities as proven successful by 14-18 year olds. However, based on Youth SVP annual secretarial information which we have received, we know that 14-18 year olds are generally attracted to these sorts of activities:

- Hand-delivering Vinnie packs to the homeless
- Running a bingo evening once a year for local elderly parishioners
- Fundraising for local projects
- Helping a local parish
- Cooking meals, cakes, soups for the hungry
- Collecting cardboard & blankets for distribution to the homeless
- Ambassador (leadership) training
- Visiting the sick in hospitals
- Designing and creating "get well cards"
- Volunteering at a local SVP community centre or shop
- Tea parties for local parishioners in need of human interaction
- Pilgrimage walks/hikes/events
- Supporting Post Pals (sending letters to terminally ill children)



- Visiting a care home during lunch break

If the group is less than 9 months old, the annual renewal fee will be waived in September 2016 (hint: January might be a really good time to start B-Attitude!).

#### 11) What do you get for your payment (Resources)?

##### *Individual Members' Resources*

At this age range, the average number of active members is around 10. We therefore send out as part of the start up pack, individual members resources for 14 members:

- 7 x trendy B-Attitude tees
- 7 x trendy B-Attitude drawstring bags
- 14 x Members' booklets
- 5 x USB flashstick drives for the leaders to use/share



##### *Group Resources*

- Model Parental Consent Forms
- Annual Secretarial Form (Serves as a Registration Form also)
- Sample Scripts for Lectern & Newsletter announcements
- Advertising Poster
- Vincentian Spirituality sheet
- The Rule
- Online Training Programme (Pending)\*\*

\*\*We are awaiting the development of an online training and formation programme to serve as the 'spiritual resource' for B-Attitude members. Before it gets developed, however, we are undergoing a consultation with current Youth SVP groups to determine the best course of action here.

#### 12) How do we go about starting a B-Attitude group up?

Step 1 - Ensure that potential Vincentian Coordinator(s) can commit to supporting the group.

Step 2 - Vincentian Coordinator meets with a Young Vincentians Development Officer who will walk the journey of setting up the group. This process involves

groups. The groups are intended to be led by the young people and for the young people. They are there as the support and main communication link between the active group, the local Central Council, and the National Office, and they help guide the young people turn their concern into action!

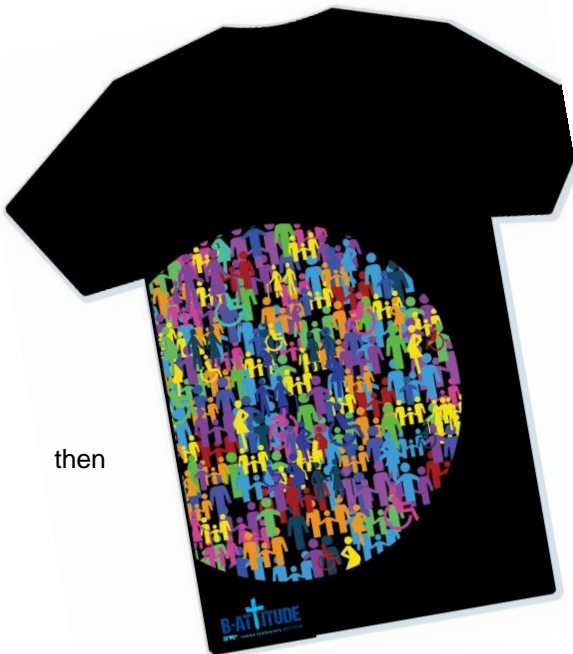
A Young Vincentians Development Officer (YVDO) is someone who is based regionally and gets the Young Vincentians groups started up on behalf of SVP Central Councils and the National Office.

**8) How does the group typically operate?**

In Schools - meetings take place between once a week and every 3 weeks, either during lunchtimes or after school. There is often an alternation between meetings and voluntary activities (particularly during short lunch breaks). Members gather and pray together, receive short bursts of formation, talk and reflect on those around them who need their help, and think of ways they can help those people.

In parishes - meetings take place either weekly or bi-weekly and members often do their voluntary activities during their free time in groups or small teams.

9)



then

**Are there any specific leadership roles that some of the key players can embrace?**

Yes! The key leadership roles include: President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Communications Officer.

**10) What's the cost?**

The start-up cost in 2015-16 is **£150** for both schools and parishes. There is an annual renewal fee which would help towards ongoing administrative costs, development of seasonal resources,

production of certificates, individual

members' resources and the online training programme, and could be between £40 and £65 in 2016.

**5) When is it being launched?**

B-Attitude was soft-launched 11<sup>th</sup> September 2015 with fresh and exciting new members' resources having been released (see point 11). We started getting the word out about the apostolate in February, and we have had interest/enquiries about it since May. The 'BIG launch' will take place in September 2016 following a Consultation on the Online Training Programme which will serve as the main spiritual resource for this age group. However, B-Attitude groups can be active as of 11<sup>th</sup> September 2015.

**6) What are the benefits to the young person in joining a B-Attitude group?**

- You will make a real difference to people who need your help!
- You will learn about some of the problems that are around you, and the role you can play to make a difference.
- You will meet nice people and have fun!
- It provides a safe platform with which to pray comfortably with your group for the people you serve.
- You will grow in faith.
- You will gain great experience which employers and universities will admire.

**7) What essential elements are needed for launching a B-Attitude group?**

- A committed group of young volunteers
- A Vincentian Coordinator
- A Young Vincentians Development Officer (YVDO)

Unless there are young people who can form a group, there would be no B-Attitude! Often they need personal invitation to become inspired or motivated... so don't be afraid to approach the young people and tell them all about B-Attitude.



A Vincentian Coordinator is the adult supervisor to the groups. The groups are intended to be led by the young people and for the young people. They are there as the support and main communication link between the active group, the local Central Council, and the National Office, and they help guide the young people turn their concern into action!

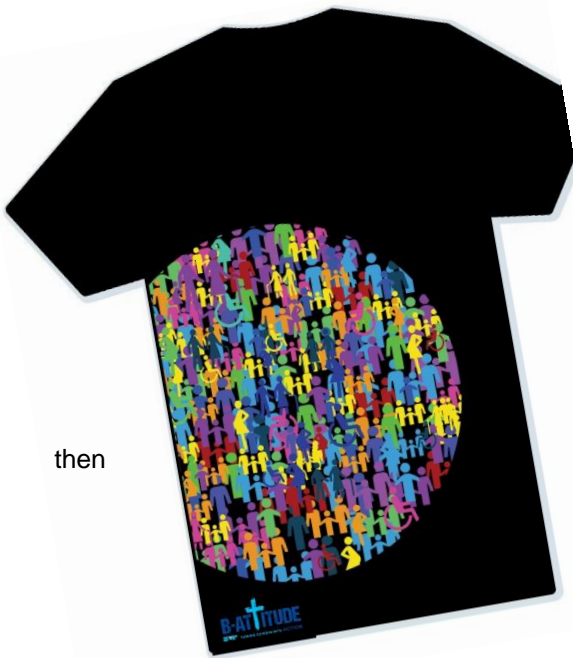
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