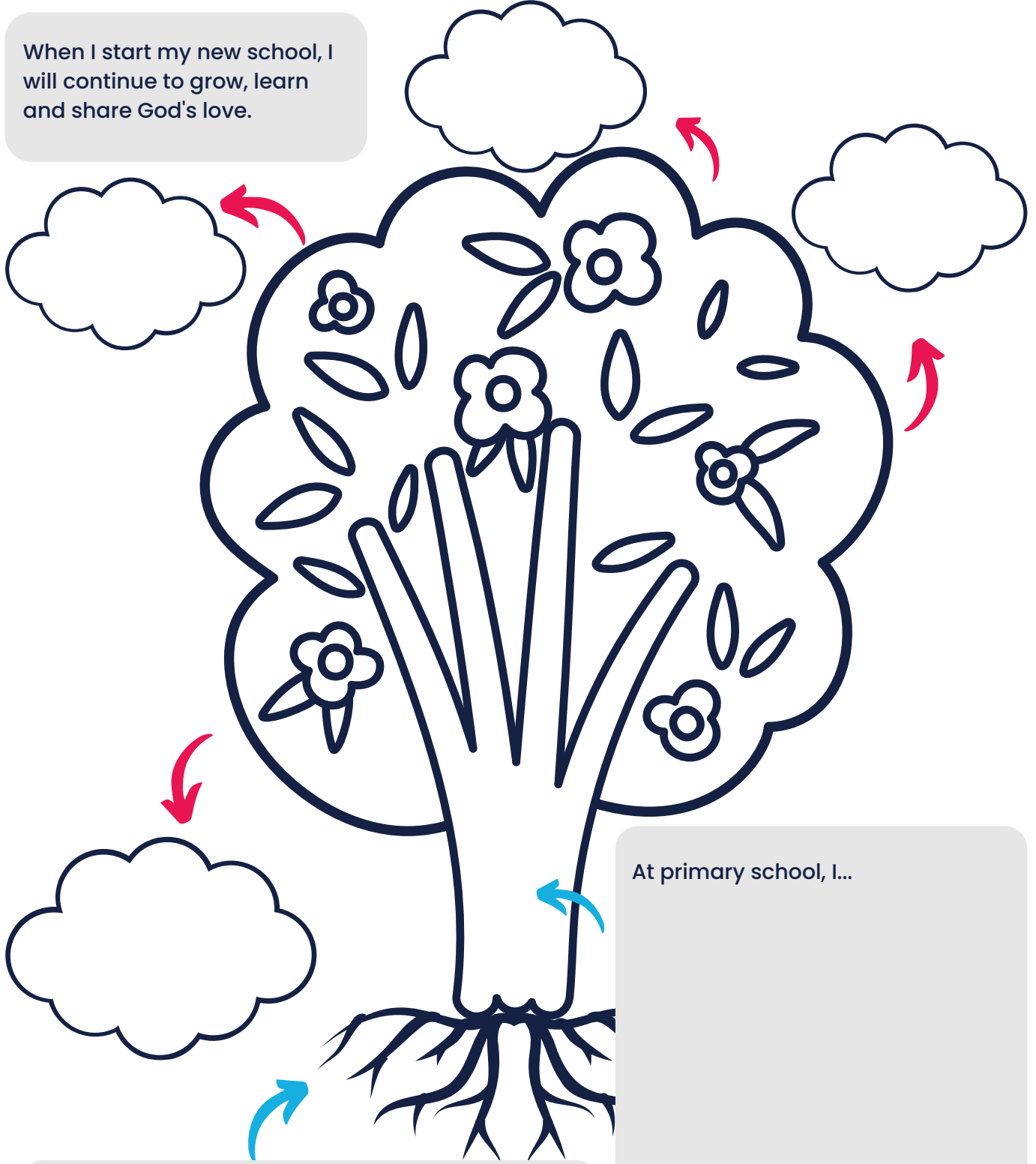




## SVP School Leavers' Activity

When I start my new school, I will continue to grow, learn and share God's love.



At primary school, I...

I am rooted in kindness, compassion, respect and generosity. I respond when I can in a Christ-centred way, sharing God's love with other people.



St Vincent de Paul Society  
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Turning Concern into Action

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## SVP School Leavers' Activity: Leader's Guide

### Aim of the session:

- To invite the children to reflect on their time at primary school and think about their hopes and dreams for the future
- To consider how they can apply their Vincentian values in their next school as they continue their journey as part of the SVP family, turning concern into action

### What you will need:

- SVP School Leavers' Activity worksheet (1 per child)
- Pens and pencils

### Procedure:

This activity can be used in the classroom, as part of an assembly or incorporated in a Leavers' Mass.

### Suggested opening prayer before activity

**Teacher:** In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,

**All:** Amen

### Teacher:

Heavenly Father,

We thank you for the time we have spent at (school name). Join us now as we look back on all we've achieved at primary school and all that is to come in our new school.

In Jesus' name we pray,

**All:** Amen

### Present the School Leavers' Tree

Explain to the children that when we think about our time at primary school and what's to come, we can do so with the help of a tree. Elicit from the children the different parts of a tree: roots, trunk, branches, leaves and blossom. Each part represents the children's journey through their school life.





**Roots:** The children put down roots when they started primary school, learning the Vincentian values as Mini Vinnies and nurturing these.

Read together the sentences which point to the roots on the worksheet:

I am rooted in kindness, compassion, respect and generosity. I respond when I can in a Christ-centred way, sharing God's love with other people.

Unpack this a little with the children.

**Can you think of any examples of times when you have shown these values?**

**Why are these values the roots of our tree?**

Because like a tree, the roots keep the tree steady, like an anchor, which is what we need for our lives too. We need these roots to be able to grow and do good things in our lives.

**What does a 'Christ-centred way' mean?**

That we see Jesus in everything we do and in everyone we meet.

Share with the children that as a member of the SVP, they can respond to the needs of others when they are able to, but they can also receive love and support from the SVP whenever they need it as well.

**Trunk and branches:** The tree trunk and its branches represent the things that the children have done at primary school. This might include their achievements, the projects in which they have been a part as a Mini Vinnie, the ways they have lived out their Vincentian values, or the things they have learned over the years.

Ask the children to take a moment to think about their time at (School name) and write those things down in the box next to the trunk of the tree on the worksheet.

Feed back some of their thoughts.

**Leaves and blossom:**

The leaves and the blossom on our tree represent the children's future. They continue to develop, grow, learn and change.

Ask the children to think about their hopes and dreams for the future at their new school. How might they continue to show that they are part of the Vincentian family? Write these ideas down in the four clouds around the tree on the worksheet.

Feed back some of their thoughts.