



The Holy Family

Catholic School

a voluntary academy



December Careers Newsletter 2022

Welcome to the next edition of the Careers Newsletter, this month we will look at careers in the Fire Service.

Issue 3—December 2022

This Month's newsletter will focus on jobs in the Fire Service

Let's explore the world of the Fire Service and see the different roles and how you can build a Career in this field.



As a firefighter, you will be called upon to tackle various emergency situations where your problem solving skills and initiative will be vital to resolve issues quickly and calmly. Incidents vary from tackling fires and rescuing people from burning buildings to dealing with chemical spillages and Road Traffic Collisions (RTCs).

A sensitive approach will be required when dealing with members of the public, who may be distressed and confused. Today's firefighter also works closely with the community to increase their level of awareness and to help prevent incidents from occurring in the first place. Being able to communicate effectively to schools, community groups, voluntary organisations and others is important, as is treating people with dignity and respect regardless of their background or culture.

Skills Builder Skills needed in the Fire Service

- ⇒ Communication
- ⇒ Leadership
- ⇒ Interpersonal
- ⇒ Enthusiasm
- ⇒ Compassion
- ⇒ Empathy
- ⇒ Confidentiality

There are certain personal attributes you will need to fulfil within your role as a firefighter. These include confidence, resilience, adaptability, ability to communicate effectively, integrity and have a commitment to diversity.

The role of the firefighter is continually changing as new techniques and equipment are introduced. As well as responding to emergencies, you will also be expected to work closely with the community.

West Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service is one of 44 Fire & Rescue Services in England and Wales and the fourth biggest Metropolitan Service in England. Our service is governed by the West Yorkshire Fire & Rescue Authority which has 22 elected Members from across the five local authorities.



Our ambition



Making West Yorkshire Safer

To improve community safety and wellbeing and reduce the risk to life, property and the environment from fire and other emergencies

Getting Into The Fire Service

STAGE 1 – COMPLETION OF THE APPLICATION FORM

The application form is the first stage of selection and unfortunately, the vast majority of applicants **fail** at this stage. You will be required to complete the form online and it should be your number one priority to **demonstrate the assessable competencies and qualities** that are vital to the role. For example, you will need to provide evidence of where you have provided a high-level of customer service, or when you have previously concentrated for long periods of time, or when you have had to work under pressure

STAGE 2 – THE FIREFIGHTER ASSESSMENT PROCESS & PRACTICAL TESTS Once you have successfully passed the application stage you will be invited to attend an assessment centre. The tests may vary between different Fire Services but those that form part of the National Firefighter Selection Process include: **Situational awareness** and **problem solving, Understanding information, Working with numbers.**

Some Fire Services may also use different forms of written tests including psychometric testing and group discussions. The firefighter physical tests, which also form part of the National Selection Process, are designed to assess whether you have the physical strength and fitness to carry out the demanding role of a firefighter. The tests themselves will assess three key areas: Your overall level of fitness, Your strength and manual dexterity, Your levels of confidence.

STAGE 3 – THE INTERVIEW

If you successfully pass the firefighter assessment process you will be invited to attend an interview. Only the best candidates reach this stage of the selection process, and you will not want to fail this close to the end of the process!

Throughout the firefighter interview you will need to provide EVIDENCE that you meet the assessable qualities (the PQAs) required to pass the firefighter interview.

STAGE 4 – VETTING, FITNESS & MEDICAL TESTS

The final stages of selection involve a series of checks to ensure that you meet the eligibility criteria, and a medical/fitness assessment to ensure that you are physically able to perform the job safely.

What qualifications do I need to become a firefighter?

There are a few different entry routes to becoming a firefighter – the most common is to apply directly. Each fire service will have its own entry requirements but typically you will need English and maths GCSEs at grades 4 or above, or equivalent qualifications.

You may also be required to pass additional numerical and verbal reasoning assessments during the selection process.

KEIGHLEY COLLEGE Firefighter Course

Keighley College are offering a course called (Level 2 Diploma for Entry into the Uniformed Public Services)

A minimum of 4 GCSE's at grade 4 including English and/or ideally Math's or equivalent (e.g. Level 1 Functional Skills), NVQ1 or satisfactory completion of a Foundation learning Programme at Level 1 with a minimum of 37 credits.

If you are under 19 and you do not already have English & Maths GCSE grades A-C or equivalent, you will be required to undertake GCSE or Functional Skills alongside your main qualification.



Useful Websites

<https://keighleycollege.ac.uk/courses>
<https://www.westyorksfire.gov.uk>

OUR CORE VIRTUES



Awakening minds



Achieving dreams



Serving others