

What makes a Firefighter?

(Key Stages 2 & 3)



Introduces children to some of the topics and themes in citizenship, but related to the context of the Fire and Rescue Service.

Begin by giving a bit of background into what the Fire Service is here to do.

Explain the origin of the Fire Service badge (almost all UK Fire Services use a variant of this design):

- The 8-pointed star is the cross of St John and is derived from the Maltese cross – the emblem of the Knights of Malta.
- The Knights of St John of Jerusalem used this cross during the Crusades.
- The eight tenets are said to represent the 8 knightly virtues.

Initial work here could be to explore more about the crusades – what were the Knights doing and why? What effect has this had down the ages?

The children could do some work to look at other symbols and emblems used during the crusades – perhaps to look at coats of arms. Perhaps the children could design a Coat of Arms for their family or the school.

Concentrating on the ‘Knightly Virtues’ – explore what a virtue is. What qualities could be ascribed to other people in society – Teachers, Policemen, Doctors etc?

This would encourage the children to begin thinking about how words can describe the character of a person. Perhaps they would like to take it in turns to think of positive qualities in each other. Write these onto a poster that could be used to describe all the good things about the class.

What makes a Firefighter?



Below is the emblem of Hampshire Fire and Rescue Service.

Using the dictionaries, can you find out what each of the words at each point on the star means?

Why do you think the Fire and Rescue Service use these words to describe themselves?

Think of things a Firefighter might do that match up to each meaning.

Think of times when you have done something that matches these words.

PERSEVERANCE

TACT

LOYALTY

GALLANTRY

OBSERVATION

DEXTERITY

SYMPATHY

EXPLICITNESS

