



## EDUCATION STATEMENT

At West Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service, we are striving to educate our communities on matters of safety.

Our ambition is: **“Making West Yorkshire Safer”**

Our aim is: **To improve community safety and wellbeing and reduce the risk to life, property and the environment from fire and other emergencies.**

### **What’s the problem?**

Over the years, technology and the way we live has totally transformed and has brought extra dangers into our homes as a result. Such as:

- Many more electronic devices being used in our homes and not having enough plug sockets to cope, leading to overloaded sockets.
- The dangers of lithium-ion batteries and products that use them.
- Electronic cigarette and vape dangers.
- The incorrect disposal of batteries and broken electronic devices.
- The pressure of the growing cost of living, meaning many people are using unconventional ways to heat their homes without the proper education to do this safely.
- The growing trend of fragranced candles and unsafe practices.

These are along with all the other fire hazards that have continued to cause fires over the years.

### **How can we address this issue?**

As many of you may be aware, Fire Services deliver, **“Safe and Well”** visits to the most vulnerable residents in our communities. “Safe and Well”, is a free service offered by West Yorkshire Fire Service, in which firefighters or dedicated prevention officers visit members of our community in their own homes. Our officers will then carry out a fire risk assessment and offer tailored advice and interventions to help reduce the risk of fire in their property.

To help educate the rest of our communities, we are striving to get the education out through staff and children in schools, with the hope that following the talks, messages get taken home to families and friends.

### **How are we going to do this?**

Our education packages have changed over the years, not only with the information they provide, but also the way in which it is delivered. We did not feel that the previous packages were reaching as many schools as we would have liked, nor was it prioritising the important fire safety information we so desperately need to get out there.

**Making West Yorkshire Safer**  
[www.westyorksfire.gov.uk](http://www.westyorksfire.gov.uk)

Our new Year 5/6 Home Fire Safety Talk includes education for both young and old. It is our hope that **the staff present can take as much out of the talk as the children** and help us to share the messages with their friends and family too.

It is important that these talks are taken seriously with no distractions and full attention is given to the talk by **both staff and children** to ensure no vital information is missed by either. This will help us achieve our ambition.

As well as Home Fire Safety talks, we have also updated our other safety talks, including Water Safety, Road Safety, ASB/Hoax calls awareness and Bonfire Safety. These talks are general packages to educate pupils from Upper Key Stage 2 to Key Stage 4.

We would like to draw your attention to the website, [StayWise](#). This is a website created by the NFCC (National Fire Chiefs Council) and combines educational resources from all the blue light emergency services. These include lesson plans, activities, resources and more for ages 3 – 18. The website is free to use, you simply need to sign up for access to all their resources, again, free of charge.

You can see their promotional video [here](#).

### **Remember:**

\*It is important to point out that our firefighters will be delivering these talks, and they are not teachers and are not trained in behaviour management, so need the school staff to be on top of children's behaviour. They also do not hold enhanced DBS certificates, so should never be left unassisted with the children due to Safeguarding legislation. If this is to happen, the talk will need to be stopped immediately until staff are present or rearranged to another date when staff can be present.

### **Youth Interventions:**

Aside from this, we have a highly experienced [Youth Interventions](#) Team who deliver bespoke packages for targeted groups of young people aged 8 – 25 who may need more hard hitting messages and interventions. They can also work with children younger than this in their homes with the parents for issues such as fire setting. Please see their page on the link to see all the different course they can provide.

### **Finally**

We hope the education we are offering is going to help you, the children, their families and all our communities to become safer.

Thank you for your support in this matter.