

# Leading RE in a Catholic School

Julia Cunningham & Andy Lewis



# Who we are:

**Julia Cunningham**

Shrewsbury Diocese RE  
Coordinator

**Andy Lewis**

Director of RE

St Bonaventure's, London  
Borough of Newham

***Who are you?***

# Vocation to Leading RE in the Catholic school

- The call to teach
- The call to teach RE in a Catholic school
- The call to lead RE in a Catholic school



# What makes leading RE different?

- Teaching excellent lessons (pedagogy)
- Locating (and maintaining stock of) glue sticks - and other resources.
- Providing opportunities for prayer and the Sacraments.
- Managing your staff - nurturing and developing, monitoring and balancing
- Having a high profile in the school.
- Working as an “interdisciplinary dialogue” (RECD)

# Vision - what's yours?

**“Academic for all,  
Catechesis for some.”  
(RECD 2012)**

“For some, then, Religious Education will also be received as evangelisation and for some, catechesis.”  
(p3)

“Religious Education in schools be regarded as an academic discipline with the same systematic demands and the same rigour as other disciplines” (p3)

# Vision - what's yours?

**Dear Lord,**

**Fill us with your Holy Spirit that we may have the wisdom to make the decisions that best serve the young people in our care.**

**May we have the strength to share our talents generously and work together purposefully for the good of our school community so that all may have life and have it to the full.**

**Amen**

# Organisation - Dream vs Reality?

- Full member of SLT - Director of RE / Catholic Life / Ethos
- Associate Member of SLT - “Core of the Core”
- RE Lead (Primary) - other roles?
- Curriculum Leader (Secondary)
  - How many assistant curriculum leaders do you have?
- Chaplain
  - Full time, part time, lay, clergy, RE teacher with TLR
- Specialist RE teachers - *full time in department? Catholic?*

***Your career path?***

# Your Profile

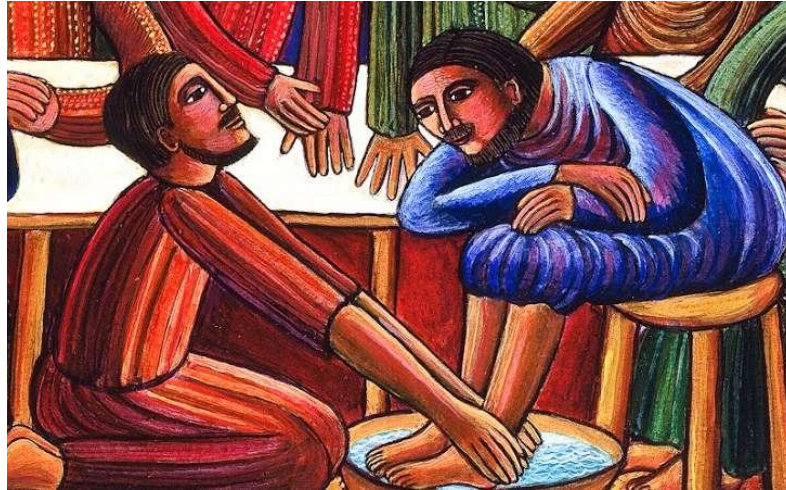
- “Core of the Core” - automatic status?
- How do you compare to History and English in terms of challenge e.g. extended writing at KS3?
- How do you ‘brand’ your department - Are you RE? Are you something else... some Catholic schools use “Philosophy and Ethics” for A Level!



# The model of leadership in Catholic school:

## A man of action:

- He teaches
- He serves
- He loves
- He forgives
- He heals
- He challenges
- He confronts



## Why do it?

- Meaning
- Sowing Seeds for a Rich Harvest
- Accompaniment
- Encouraging young people to be counter-cultural and witnesses to the Gospel message
- Life education