





CRIBS has supported schools in a developing and evolving educational landscape since 1993. The team continues to offer RE lessons, workshops, seasonal productions, and wellbeing intervention sessions and mentoring. Good relationships have been developed with many schools in Bexley and neighbouring boroughs with regular bookings and positive feedback. This is only possible thanks to a committed, faith-driven team and the prayer and financial support of many faithful individuals and a number of partnering churches. The work is underpinned by a desire to 'share the light, love and life of Jesus with children and young people'. Please get in touch with us if you want to know any more about what we do, or to discuss how you can support us.

Paul Davis, CRIBS Director

Our Purpose

CRIBS' work supports the Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural development of children and young people as we seek to inspire Living Values, Growing Faith. Our desire is that all children have the opportunity to explore and think through the values they live by and the foundational beliefs. Our starting point is that the Christian message provides a compelling framework for doing this in a way that includes people of all backgrounds and provides space for growth and exploration.

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The CRiBS team have been delivering creative, interactive RE lessons since 1993, and it represents the heart of our work. REconnect is a programme that covers the teaching of Christianity, as part of the RE syllabus, and consists of a bank of over 300 creative and memorable lessons, helping children consider faith in a fun and engaging way.

The team teach in primary schools, special schools and pre-schools across Bexley Borough and into neighbouring boroughs. REconnect also includes bespoke workshops covering a range of aspects with regards to Christianity and values education.



Jason teaching an RE Lesson

RE lessons remain an important opportunity for CRiBS to present Christian faith and the hope that we have, sowing seeds that we trust will bear fruit in the future.

Carole leading a Reception class in singing a song



'The children adored the CRiBS team and enjoyed the learning. I feel their knowledge of Christianity has developed greatly.'
(Yr 3 Teacher)

'I think everyone in my class loved CRiBS and had fun learning about Jesus and everyone was keen to answer.'
(Yr 4 pupil)

Primary



Our 10-week small-group intervention programme ('HeartSense') focusses on emotions and well-being and is designed for children across Years 2-6 who may be struggling with:

- engagement in the classroom
- social interactions
- an unsettled home environment

Depending on particular needs, this can develop further into a longer-term programme of mentoring support.

Throughout 2024/25 we worked in eight schools, some of which we have now been working in continuously for over eight years. There continues to be high demand for wellbeing support in primary schools, and schools acknowledge the value of Unlimited in providing this.

The small-group work can then be supplemented by an after-school club to help with team play, social skills and confidence building. Unfortunately school funding and budget priorities have meant that this is currently only taking place in one school.

'To control my emotions carefully and to tell my emotions and feelings to others to help me feel better.'
(Pupil)

'I've seen improvements across all aspects of learning. They still struggle with some friendships but improved their regulation afterwards.'
(Teacher)

Rachel, Abigail and James in 'Heartsense' sessions



Over 300 children supported, in 8 schools, during 2024/25



Secondary

CRIBS Unlimited mentoring for secondary school students provides a safe space for a young person to sit and talk with a trained mentor about any concerns or difficulties they are facing.

In 2024/25 our mentoring presence continued in six secondary schools, with a significant increase in the number of pupils being mentored. With the resource available within the team it's hard to meet the demand that there is for mentoring.

We are also passionate about supporting young people leading Christian Unions in their schools, for which new opportunities are arising as we head into 2026.

Testimonial from a school:

Unlimited mentors from CRIBS visit our schools weekly to mentor our students. They work with some of our hardest to reach and vulnerable students. Their calm and friendly approach and consistent support has helped students overcome a number of anxieties and improved their school attendance.

They are really good at professional information sharing and report any safeguarding or emotional wellbeing concerns to enable us to talk to parents and offer further services, if required. The fact that CRIBS is not time-limited means we can support students for longer than many other services and this has proved to be very beneficial for the students whose problems are going to be ongoing.

Every student who has been supported by CRIBS has shown increased confidence and started to talk a bit more about their feelings.

CRIBS now feels like an essential and important part of our pastoral support team and we value the service very much.

Adam mentoring a Year 8 student



**'Helped a lot with my confidence for the future and understanding my emotions'
'Very helpful advice on how to handle negative situations'**
(Students)

Mentoring: 82 students, 6 schools CUs: 40 students, 3 schools

Workshops

christians
against
poverty

CAP



Paul overseeing an activity

'CAP Money: Kids' is a workshop, delivered by CRiBS over two sessions, developed by 'Christians Against Poverty'. It is aimed at children in Years 5 and 6. The two sessions provide a basic understanding of income, expenditure, saving, giving, budgeting, and the impact debt can have on families. The sessions prompt some fantastic discussions and have been widely appreciated by staff and pupils. This has become an established part of CRiBS work in schools.



Paul delivering a CAP session

Approx 400 children, 16 classes, 9 schools in 2024/25

"The workshops covered a wide range of topics. Children began by identifying the different types of employment (employed or self-employed) and how these generate income. They then focused on expenditure linked to running a home and enjoying hobbies. Great advice was given about how to save money when making decisions about spending. With this knowledge, children planned a holiday for a fictional character using a budget; this holiday had to meet their interests and wants. Lastly, the idea of debt was covered as children reflected on how it would make people feel if they were in debt." (School Financial Education Lead)

'I learnt that you should save money and spend it wisely'
(Pupil)

'Excellent workshop. Children were engaged and it encouraged them to think about their secondary schools'
(Teacher)

In the summer term, we once again delivered 'Moving Up', CRiBS' transition support workshop for children in Year 6 to help them prepare for their move to secondary school. The workshop uses a mix of media content, small-group activities and whole-class

discussions to help children explore how they are feeling about some of the changes associated with going to a different school.

'I learnt about how to make the move to secondary school be as smooth as can be.'
(Pupil)

We received very positive feedback from pupils and teachers, which really emphasises the importance of these sessions.



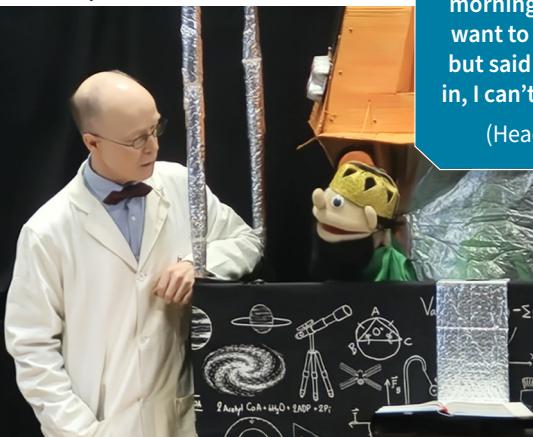
Dan leading a 'Moving Up' session

Over 850 children, 34 classes, 19 schools visited in 2024/25

The CRIBS team have been performing seasonal productions since 1997. These dramatic presentations are written and performed by the team to provide children with explanation and understanding of the reason for the Christian celebration of Christmas and Easter and bringing them to life. They are delivered in a creative way with acting, puppetry and music, and seek to engage the children with interactive performances.

The year's performances of 'His-Story in the Present' for Christmas 2024 and 'Across His-Story' for Easter 2025 proved as popular as ever with bookings and positive feedback from children and staff. It has been great to see the opportunities widen as demand for the productions extends further afield and more schools outside of Bexley Borough are booking.

'His-Story in the Present'



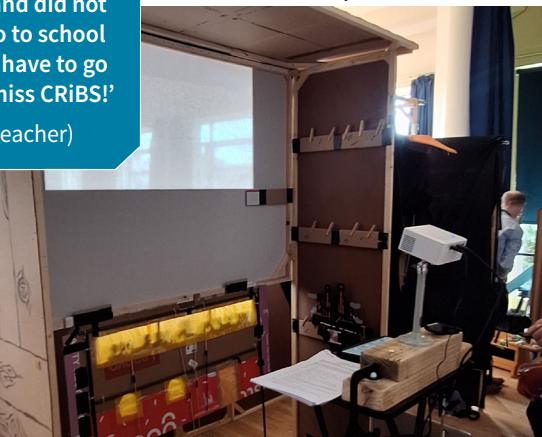
'My own child was not feeling well this morning and did not want to go to school but said 'I have to go in, I can't miss CRIBS!'

(Headteacher)

'The children were absolutely enthralled. It held their attention remarkably well, even for some of our children who find concentrating a challenge.'

(Teacher)

'Across His-Story'- Behind the scenes



Over 15,000 children across 38 different schools during 2024/25

Volunteers

Charities in general appreciate their volunteer support, and CRiBS is no different!



With the new school year, September 2024 saw two new Koru student join us. Both students were an asset to the team providing support across CRiBS' various projects.



In addition to working alongside the CRiBS team, each Gap Year student is assigned to a church as part of their placement. This enables them to participate in the life of the church, including supporting the running of various groups for children and young people. In 2024/25, the Koru students were hosted by St John's Welling and New Hope Church.

Koru gap year: running since 2014, hosting a total of 30 students

During 2024/25, our number of volunteers has grown and their levels of commitment and willingness to get involved in different areas is valued and much appreciated. Volunteers can be provided with training and support to work in our Unlimited team with wellbeing sessions in primary schools or as mentors in secondary schools, or to carry out administrative tasks in the office.



Koru student telling a story to a Reception class

Community

Over many years, CRiBS has supported local church community events 'Spark in the Park' and 'Lark in the Park', and Summer 2025 was no exception.

Team members retold Bible accounts and stories in a fun and engaging way, with Bible characters sharing their experiences! It's always a privilege to serve alongside the Church in our Borough.



CRiBS team at 'Spark in the Park'

Trustees

The CRiBS Trustees and team would like to say a huge thank you to all our loyal supporters.

CRiBS has a team of six Trustees, all respected Christian people who draw on a wide range of skills and experience, and we could not function without them. Amongst other things, they are responsible to the Charity Commission for the sound financial management of CRiBS as a charity, and to donors and supporters for the efficient use of resources. During the year we had some personnel change as we said farewell and many thanks to Rev Tom Parsons, and welcomed Rev Clive Beazley-Long to the Board of Trustees.

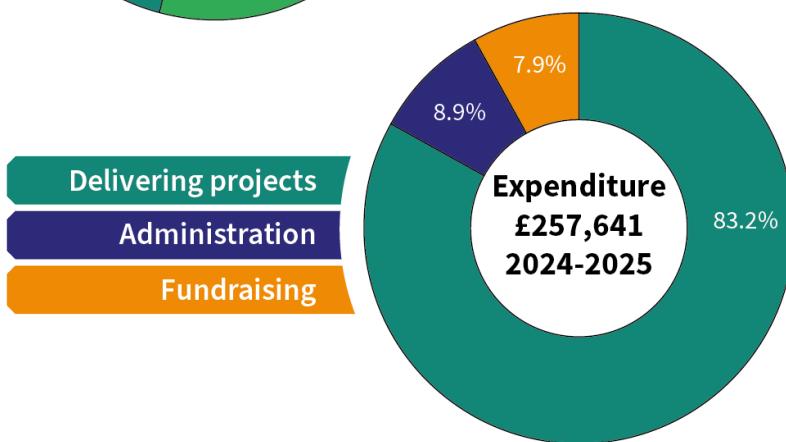
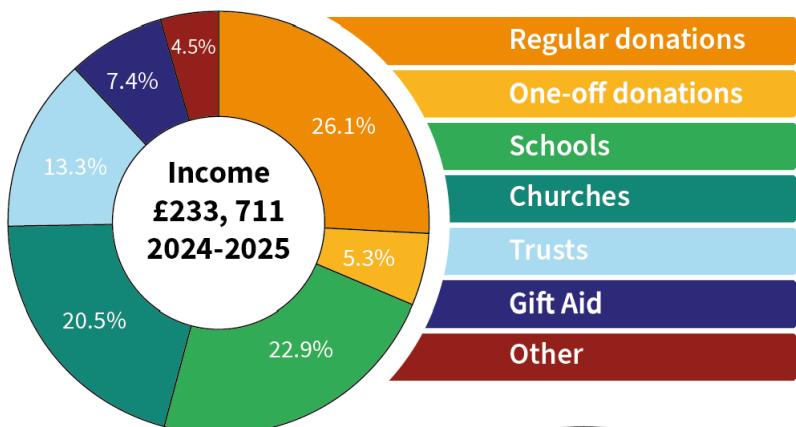
You will see on page 9 of this Annual Review that incoming resources for the latest financial year, 2024-25, amounted to £233,711 and resources expended £257,641, giving rise to a deficit of £23,930 for the year. This was an expected deficit given some reduction in income, particularly from grant funding but also from supporters with general cost of living issues and schools with budgetary pressures. However, we were in the position of having a decent level of reserves, a portion of which we were able to use to cover the deficit. The impact of organisational changes within the financial year, including the team structure and movement of staff to term-time working, means that forecast expenditure for next financial year is reduced in order to minimise the likelihood of another deficit, and to provide a sustainable cost base for the future.

The Trustees have been grateful to our excellent team for their flexibility and commitment in adjusting to new ways of working, and thankful for the many committed churches, individuals, businesses and trusts who support CRiBS. We continue to guide and support the team so that the mission of CRiBS can be effective and impactful for many years to come.

Martin Andrews, Steve Burnett, Anne Wood, Bola Ojo, David Linley, Clive Beazley-Long



Finance 2024-25



**Helping us change lives and positively impact
the future of thousands of children and young people, as we
share the light, love and life of Jesus with them in their schools.**

How can you help?

Did you know?

- £10** a month could pay for resources for a lesson in a school
- £40** could provide for an Unlimited 'Heartsense' session in one school
- £100** will pay for one school performance of our Easter or Christmas play
- £220** could help us teach RE in one school for a whole term

- I am returning this response form with a cheque for £_____ payable to CRIBS Charitable Trust.
- I have set up a regular bank transfer to CRIBS Charitable Trust.
Bank Account: 65293438 Sort Code 08-92-99.
- I would like information about leaving a gift to CRIBS in my will.

Contact Details

Title: First Name: Surname:

Address: Postcode:

Email Address: Telephone:

Contact preferences: email mail phone do not contact me

I want to Gift Aid my donation of £_____ to CRIBS Charitable Trust

I want to Gift Aid my donation of £_____ and any donations I make in the future or have made in the past 4 years to CRIBS Charitable Trust.

gift aid it

I am a UK taxpayer and understand that if I pay less Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax in the current tax year than the amount of Gift Aid claimed on my donations it is my responsibility to pay any difference.

Please notify CRIBS if you want to cancel this declaration, change your name or home address or no longer pay sufficient tax on your income and/or capital gains.

Signed:

Date:

To donate to CRIBS
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