



CHRISTIAN RESOURCES IN BEXLEY SCHOOLS



Annual review 2022

www.cribsonline.org

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A lot more normal!

For all the challenges of this year, from the point of view of CRiBS work in schools, 2022 has been a lot more 'normal' than the last 2 years. It has been a joy to have a whole year of face-to-face work in schools, sharing the hope we have in Jesus through lessons, seasonal productions, mentoring sessions and the wide range of work we have the privilege of carrying out with children and young people in schools.

As you will see, our work continues to take a variety of forms, and increasingly, to take place in a number of schools outside Bexley, as well as those where we have long-established relationships within the Borough. Thank you for all your interest and support. Whatever 2023 holds, we will continue to seek to share the light and hope that Jesus brings in schools all round this area, and are so grateful for those who stand with us as we do this.

CRiBS CEO Mark Leveson



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Our Vision

CRiBS' work supports the Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural development of children and young people as we seek to inspire

Growing Faith and promote **Living Values**.

Our desire is that all children have the opportunity to explore and think through the values they live by and the beliefs that underpin them.

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.

A safe
environment
created for
all to share -
thank you!
Yr 5 Teacher

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RE Lessons

REconnect

Teaching creative, interactive Christian RE lessons has long been at the heart of our work, helping children consider faith in a fun, engaging and memorable way. REconnect is a programme that offers the teaching of Christianity, as part of the RE syllabus, and consists of a bank of over 200 creative and memorable lessons.

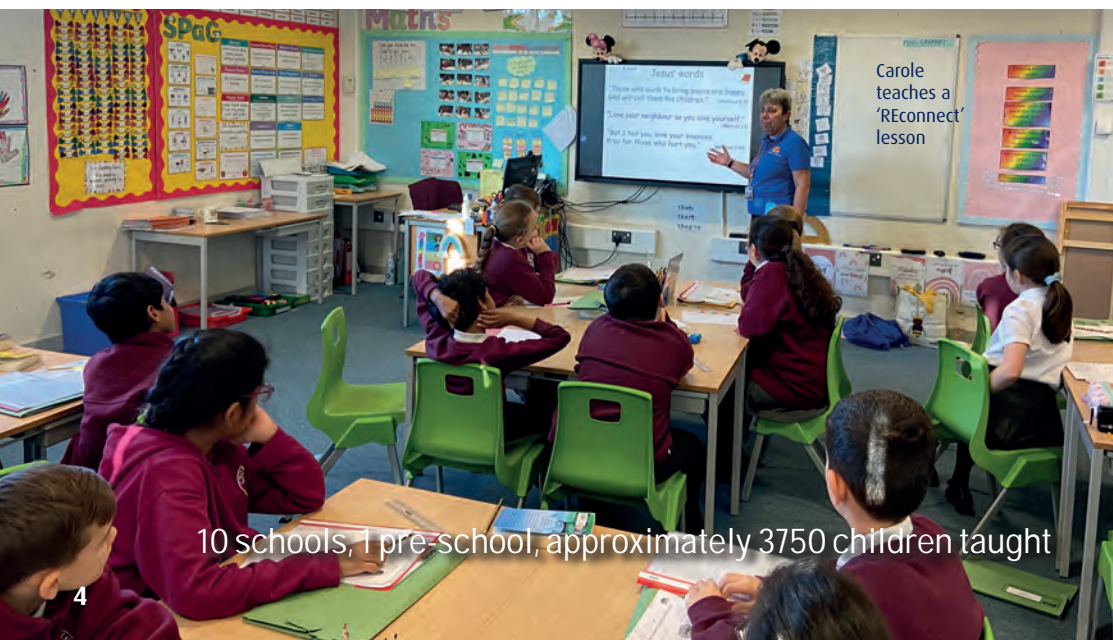
'The children have thoroughly enjoyed CRiBS. They have gained a deeper insight and knowledge of Christianity'
Yr 1 Teacher

A combination of changes to the RE syllabus and schools changing the way they deliver lessons post-Covid has meant that we have been delivering regular lessons in less schools than

'I have learnt what is in the bible all thanks to CRiBS because I wouldn't have known what was in the Bible and there are like thousands of people who wrote the bible.'

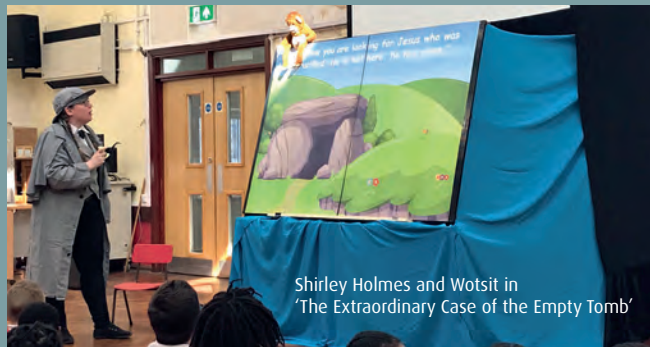
Yr 3 Pupil

previously. Nevertheless, we have been regularly visiting 10 schools over the course of the year to teach Christianity as part of RE, and have been developing our ability to deliver 'one-off' lessons and workshops which make our teaching more adaptable in different areas, regardless of which syllabus a school is following.



Carole teaches a 'REconnect' lesson

10 schools, 1 pre-school, approximately 3750 children taught



Shirley Holmes and Wotsit in
'The Extraordinary Case of the Empty Tomb'

'We loved having
CRiBS in school
today for their Easter
Performance.'

Teacher

'This morning the
children enjoyed a
wonderful Christmas
performance! A great
Advent tradition.
Thank you CRiBS.'

Teacher

CRiBS seasonal productions remain a great opportunity to bring to life the reasons for the Christian celebrations of Christmas and Easter, and have been a key part of CRiBS annual delivery programme for more than 20 years. After the disruption of Covid, it has been encouraging to be able to tour with live performances again - and to be welcomed back so warmly by the schools.

We visited 32 schools with our play, 'The Extraordinary Case of the Empty Tomb' at Easter, and 36 schools with 'Christmas on the Shelf' at Christmas.



'Christmas on the Shelf'

Easter play performed in 32 and Christmas play in 36 schools



Primary

This year we have relaunched our 10-week small group intervention programmes for those children in Years 2-6 who are struggling to settle in the school environment. Formerly known as Boys Noise and b:You, we have brought the programmes together under the banner of 'Unlimited'. This allows us to be more flexible in our offer to schools and responsive to the needs of their pupils. The foundation of Unlimited remains the small group sessions ('Heartsense') focusing on emotional well-being; sometimes this is supplemented by an after-school club to help with team play, social skills and confidence building, and sometimes too it develops into a longer-term programme of mentoring-type support for children with specific needs.

Over the course of 2022 we have worked in nine schools, and continue to get interest from new schools to work with both boys and girls in 2023.

'His confidence has grown and grown and in turn his academic abilities have grown too. Thank you for all of your support with him this year.'
Teacher

'Before Heartsense I was insecure about myself. Now I am happy!!'
Year 6 pupil

'He has really struggled with the loss of his Grandad as he was so close, and I strongly believe these sessions have been helping him to deal with this loss. He finds it easier to say when he feels sad about Grandad. He is still coming to terms with the loss but I know that these sessions have helped especially after his bereavement counselling ended. Thank you!'

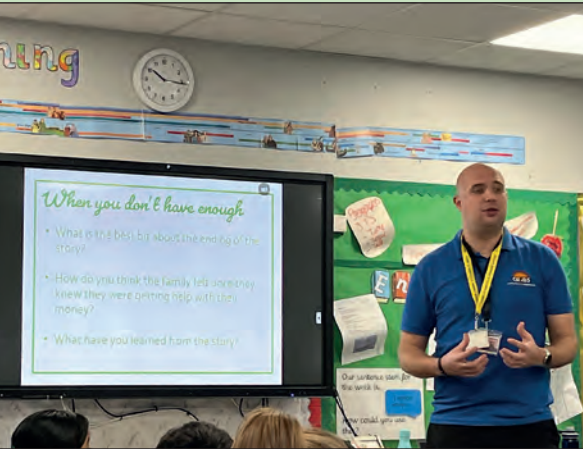
Parent of a child who has completed our new bereavement course

Primary intervention in 9 Schools

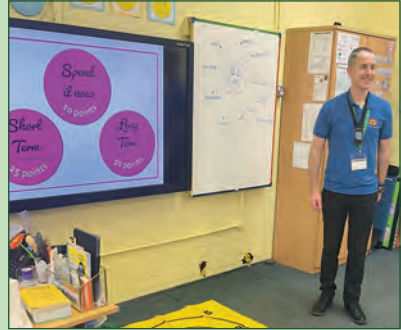
Money Workshop

christians
against
poverty

CAP



Dan and Paul delivering 'CAP Money'



This is a two-session workshop created by 'Christians Against Poverty'. It is aimed at children in Years 5 and 6, who over the two sessions gain a basic understanding of income, expenditure, saving, giving, budgeting and the impact debt can have on families. The sessions trigger some fantastic discussions and have been widely appreciated by staff and pupils at more than 20 schools where we have delivered it in 2022. We already have a good number of bookings for 2023.

'I learned how to set a budget and I know that I should think before I spend.'

Year 6 pupil

'It's been such a fantastic learning opportunity; the children have learned so much from both sessions'

Teacher

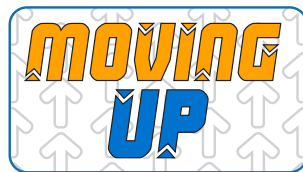


**100% of teachers agreed that,
'The workshop helped the pupils
understand how money works and
how to spend and save it'**

21 schools, 66 classes, 2030 pupils



School Transition



This year, we again delivered 'Moving Up', our new format of delivering transition support to children in Year 6 to help them prepare for the move from primary 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 changing school.

'A really positive workshop, giving the children a very positive outlook on secondary'

Teacher

Bookings increased from last year, and pupils and teachers once again expressed their appreciation for the opportunity to take time out both to reflect on the children's journey through primary school and to think through some of the ways secondary school might be different.

'The children were engaged and their concerns were addressed. Thank you for a great workshop!'

Teacher



Quotes from children:

- It's okay to be scared and worried but you will make new friends. And that you should not change yourself for someone because they are not your friends.
- That when you make a good impression on people you can make friends very easily and everyone will like you.

20 schools, 49 classes, over 1000 pupils reached

Secondary



Unlimited mentoring provides a safe and non-judgemental space for a young person to sit and talk with a trained mentor about any concerns or difficulties they are facing. Over the last year we have seen opportunities for our mentoring work in St Columba's School, where our offices are based, grow and have been able to begin work in another school locally on an ongoing basis. We have worked in two further schools, supporting students in their transition from primary school.

Supporting Christian Unions has been the other major part of our work in secondary schools historically. This was slower to get started again after the pandemic, but we have been able to support CUs in three schools over the last year, giving students a space to discuss topics around faith, life and the Bible.

'A massive thanks for supporting us this academic year of CU. You gave me lots to think about and I will have lots of more questions in September haha.'

Sixth Former

The emotional wellbeing and mental health of young people has been hugely adversely affected by the Covid pandemic. As a school we have never experienced the levels of need that are manifesting themselves on daily basis. We consider ourselves blessed to have had our established relationship with CRIBS to turn to, in order to try to meet the needs of our young people. As a school with a Christian ethos it will always be a priority to try to provide help and support that is founded on Gospel principles and we are happy and confident that this is what the CRIBS mentors provide for us. Their work is of immense value to our young people and their care and support for some of our most vulnerable pupils makes a difference as crucial as whether or not they even continue coming into school. Knowing that there is a person available to listen to their concerns and support them through their difficulties makes the world of difference not just in the moment but to their long-term success. In an age where expectations around masculinity can foster toxic attitudes and behaviours the positive role model aspect of the CRIBS mentors who work with us has an impact across the whole school. The compassion and care that is shown to our young men both in regular sessions and their willingness to jump in and give a helping hand at short notice is something which we are immensely grateful for.

Assistant Headteacher of Inclusion (SENDco), St. Columba's School

4 schools, 22 students mentored



Community Events

During the summer period the team are always in demand at local events providing teaching, stories, games, music, entertainment and opportunities for prayer. This year we led a programme for children from the main stage at 'Lark in the Park' in Sidcup, involving daily performances of 'Charlie's Garden Adventures'. Parents said their children were captivated by the programme and enjoyed being there.

CRiBS team members also joined the team at Spark in the Park in Danson Park, for its first year back since Covid, supporting the various activities and being part of 'Hero Time' with songs, games, a Bible story and the chance to share the love of Jesus with the community.



CRiBS team at 'Lark in the Park'



CRiBS team at 'Spark in the Park'






CRiBS started out working in the London Borough of Bexley, and remains passionate about the opportunities to serve schools in our Borough. But it has also been encouraging to see new doors opening in neighbouring areas – teaching RE, running our ‘Unlimited’ programme, ‘Moving Up’ or ‘CAP Money’ workshops, and performing seasonal productions - over the last couple of years, in particular, as you can see on the map below.



Schools where CRiBS has worked in 2022

Key:

-  = primary schools in London Borough of Bexley
-  = secondary schools (Bexley and beyond)
-  = primary schools outside the London Borough of Bexley

Volunteers



It was a great blessing for us to have Simone with us from Germany as part of our 'Koru Gap Year' programme in school year 2021-22. Unfortunately, for the first time in a number of years, we don't have a Gap Year student for school year 2022-23, but we'd love to welcome one (or more) for the school year starting in 2023. We are looking to work together with St John's church in Welling on this. If you are interested, or know someone who might be, please do get in touch.



Trustees

CRiBS is blessed to have a team of committed Trustees who support us as a charity, overseeing our work and making sure that the team are operating in compliance with all relevant rules and regulations. Some of them have served for many years, some only joining more recently. In the picture Mark is talking to Anne Wood, our newest Trustee, and a former Headteacher, about what led her to getting involved with CRiBS in this way.





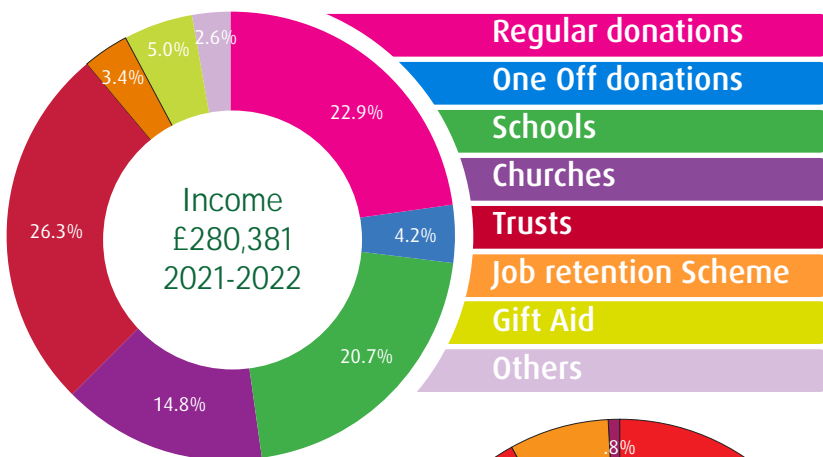
In 2023 CRiBS is celebrating 30 years of working in schools, sharing the life and hope that Jesus brings in a whole host of different ways, with many children and young people who won't encounter this message anywhere else. This is only possible because of the prayers and financial support of so many who may never themselves come into school with us.

It has been good to start holding events such as our Easter and Christmas celebrations, and Quiz Night, in person again over the course of the last year, and we look forward to more events as part of our celebrations this year. If there is anything you would like to do to raise funds for CRiBS, please do get in touch using the form inside the back cover. We are also planning to do a tour of local churches this year – if you would like us to visit your church, again please do get in touch.

Thank you to all those who have been part of CRiBS story in any way over the last 30 years. We look forward to your continued support as we carry on the task God has given us, to carry Jesus' light and life into schools.



We wish you a very happy 2023



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

You are helping us change lives and positively impact the future of thousands of children and young people.

Your support has been vital over the last 30 years! Thank you so much

How can you help?

Did you know?

- £10** a month could pay for resources for a session in a school
- £37** 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



To donate to CRiBS scan the QR code or visit www.cribsonline.org/donate



In 2023 CRiBS celebrates thirty years serving children and young people in our local communities! Thanks to our generous supporters.

- ☐ 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:

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Contact preferences: ☐ email ☐ mail ☐ phone ☐ do not contact me

☐ 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.

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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.

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REconnect

