



Annual review 2020





CEO Mark Leveson

2020... what an 'unprecedented' year!

It is hard to look back on 2020 without resorting to clichés. Certainly when we were sending out our 2019 Annual Review we had no idea of what was around the corner. As an organisation that works in schools, it's fair to say that the lockdown and subsequent restrictions have brought their share of challenges.

But I want to pay tribute to the commitment and flexibility of the CRiBS team through it all. From May onwards we have been producing online video content to support schools and share the Christian message, since September we have been able to re-start face-to-face work in some schools at least. As you will see from the statistics over the page I am glad to be able to report that, albeit in new ways, CRiBS work of promoting Growing Faith and Living Values has continued and developed in the midst of the pandemic.

I also want to thank our Trustees who have helped steer us through the challenges, and all those - individuals, churches and funders - who have stood with us and supported in prayer and financially over the course of this year. Above all, of course, thanks to God for His faithfulness. He gives us confidence as we look to 2021 - whatever things look like in schools we know that the work we do is based on a timeless message of love, hope and grace that will always be relevant.

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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.

“It is hard to truly measure the impact of the work you have done at our school but suffice to say the support that you have given to our children has been invaluable.”

Headteacher

CHRISTIAN RESOURCES IN BEXLEY SCHOOLS



- 12 Primary school assemblies
- 9 Year 6 transition workshops
- 8 REfresh lessons
- 8 Well-being videos
- 3 Secondary tutor time videos
- 3 CEO updates
- 1 'Respect' workshop
- Our first ever Christmas film and online Christmas Celebration

In 2020 we had to adapt quickly to produce online content for schools

REfresh is our bank of over 200 creative Christian lessons for primary schools, written to complement and support the RE syllabus. They are designed to help children consider faith in a fun, engaging and memorable way.

This year circumstances have determined the need for many variants of our lessons and resources... including online resources that could be shared in school or at home through school 'portals', making lessons available to teachers to deliver in our absence and, since September, back in school teaching in the classroom but with adaptations to methods and resources, and implementing Covid-related considerations such as PPE and social-distancing.

Continuing the school year we expect to respond further to ever-changing conditions, as well as proactively preparing and offering new lessons to schools in conjunction with the new RE Syllabus that has been launched in Bexley Borough. Most importantly, the primary school team are grateful for the opportunities that we have, whether in person or online, and aim to keep on providing pupils and staff with lessons and resources that will effectively help them to learn about 'living values, growing faith' in the context of Christianity.

"I love the lessons and they are always fun and interactive. The CRiBS teachers are nice and enthusiastic"

Yr 6 pupil

"The subject is made engaging. RE as well as big issues around well-being and coping with situations... the benefits to the children are very clear"

Headteacher



18 schools - 960 Lessons delivered - 5,040 Children taught



The children thought the film was great. They loved it. It was emotional because it was happy".
Teacher



Seasonal Productions

CRiBS seasonal productions have always provided a great opportunity to bring to life the reasons for Christian celebrations at Christmas and Easter, and have been a key part of CRiBS annual delivery programme for over 22 years!



Sadly, due to the pandemic, this year we were unable to perform face-to-face. However, not to be thwarted, the team quickly set to the task of producing CRiBS very first Christmas film! We were delighted to release 'Destination: Christmas' to primary schools in early December and then later to Churches to support their own Christmas celebrations. We hope to be back performing plays in schools as soon as we are able, but in the meantime we'd very much like to hone our film-making skills for possible movie productions in the future!



Christmas film shown in 40 primary schools and 11 Churches



Intervention

Boys Noise is our 10-week intervention programme for boys in Years 2-6, designed to help those who are struggling to settle into the school environment. It involves small group sessions (Heartsense) focusing on the boys' emotional well-being as well as an after-school club focusing on team games, social skills and confidence building.

"I don't know how we would have made it through the last few years without you"
Headteacher

"BN really helped me when I was struggling and coping with my mum's mental health"
Boys Noise boy

In what has been a challenging year we were not sure what September would look like in terms of Boys Noise bookings. However, we were delighted that three schools contacted us and asked if we were happy to resume. For two of these schools we were returning for a 4th academic year, and continuing into the forthcoming year.

As far as new bookings are concerned things look rather promising with at least two further schools showing an interest.

Boys Noise features 'HeartSense' - our small-group programme





b:You is the sister programme to Boys Noise, providing support for girls. It helps them deal with issues ranging from low self-esteem and lack of confidence, to friendship difficulties and anger management.

“She is generally a lot better in class. She is working hard to rebuild friendships that she may have broken in the past”

Teacher

In March, we were working in two schools, with 20 girls engaged in the programme across the two schools. Unfortunately, the Covid-19 lockdown curtailed the programme. However, we were able to bring the programme to a conclusion for the four Year 6 girls who we were working with and offer them some encouragement for their next school.



While we have been unable to deliver b:You in any schools since March, we have continued to maintain relationships and hope to be offering two b:You programmes in 2021.

School Transition

Prior to 2020, we offered a two-hour workshop called 'Taking Off' to help prepare Year 6 pupils for the move from primary to secondary school. This year, we wanted to offer a similar programme but in an online format.

We called this new offering 'Moving Up'. It contained similar activities to Taking Off: keeping a memory box; thinking ahead; dealing with worries; how to get help; all of which could be delivered in a classroom with teacher support or undertaken at home for those pupils not in school. The activities were introduced and supported by a YouTube video. This was our first major video undertaking, and we certainly had to learn 'on the job'!

Moving Up received favourable feedback and was used by at least four schools and the videos averaged 111 views. We also had the opportunity to do a 'Zoom' question and answer session with three Year 6 classes, which was lively and fun. The teacher feedback was that the pupils found this very helpful.

"it helped me know that I am not the only nervous person moving into secondary school"

Year 6 pupil

"how they made you feel that you can ask for help, and that it is okay to be scared"

Year 6 pupil



Six online workshops to support Year 6 transition

Respect

Workshop

Our 'Respect' workshop has been developed this year, using our previous anti-bullying workshop as the basis. It is designed for school Years 5-6 and takes 60-75 minutes to complete. The workshop aims to help pupils explore what respect means, how they can be respectful, and what they can change when it comes to respecting others. To do this we use a variety of activities; visual representations of respect, puppet scenarios and with the pupils creating some of their own, and them thinking about their 'piece of the puzzle' and how that fits into the big picture.

"Good to see children participate especially some that don't always join in class discussions"
Teacher

We decided to produce two versions of the workshop to ensure we could reach the maximum amount of schools.

One version is delivered in class by CRiBS team members, with support from video elements.

The other version is delivered by the class teacher, using a video presentation from CRiBS team members and printable resources.

"sessions worked brilliantly particularly given the Covid guidelines and restrictions"
Teacher



Delivered online or face-to-face in 13 Schools - 1,337 pupils



Secondary

In normal times there are two main strands to our Unlimited work in Secondary Schools - supporting Christian Unions and our volunteer mentoring programme.

At the start of the year we were supporting CUs in 5 schools with new opportunities to branch out to different schools and provide extra activities in one school in the form of a "Debating" group for older students in addition to the regular meeting. We were also beginning to work in a new school with our mentoring and getting some very encouraging feedback.

Although much of this work has had to stop due to the impact of the pandemic, we are pleased to say that we have been able to continue to support secondary school students. Members of the team and volunteer mentors have been involved in mentoring 10 students at St Columba's school where our offices are based, and we are starting to develop online mentoring which has great potential to allow our volunteers to be involved even if they are unable to visit schools.

"In light of the current issues surrounding student mental health and well-being the use of CRiBS Mentors has enabled me to support a wide variety of needs amongst our students. I have had extremely positive feedback from students, parents and health professionals."
SENCO Assistant Headteacher



We have also produced online content for use in Tutor Time in Secondary Schools. We are keen to resume soon with more schools and anticipate there being plenty of opportunities in 2021.

CRiBS Online!



Conflict resolution' with Jason, Scruffy & Whiskers



Joel gives a talk on 'Reflection' during lockdown



Carole & Barry give a lesson on 'The lost sheep'



Mark & Dr Ditty do experiments for assemblies



Paul and Fiona host the Christmas celebration

As it became clear that, due to the pandemic, our ability to work face-to-face in schools would be severely restricted for some time, thoughts began to turn to what we might be able to deliver virtually. This was the start of a journey for us of learning, purchasing better equipment, and adapting content to a very different way of working.

Starting when we were in full lockdown with some short videos on well-being themes, recorded on mobile phones. As restrictions began to ease slightly we were able to produce our Year 6 transition workshop and some REfresh lesson material to make available to schools for use in the Summer term.

From September things moved up a gear – the team all being back at work, and the kind loan of space to record by Dartford Community Church and New Hope Church, Bexleyheath, as well as the growth in experience and expertise of the team, all meant that the team was able to produce the range of material that is mentioned throughout this report to a much improved standard that we were very pleased with, including our Christmas celebration!

Not only do we envisage this work continuing all the while Coronavirus restrictions remain in place, but also that this way of working will be something that will form part of what CRiBS has to offer schools long into the future.

CRiBS Christmas Celebration had over 450 views on YouTube

Volunteers



For the last seven years CRiBS has been blessed with students from Germany working with the team through our Koru Gap-Year programme. This has been an excellent arrangement where we have offered each student a host family, a host church, training and experience in our programmes.



Gap Year Team 2019-20

Unfortunately, due to the pandemic, we had to say goodbye to our 2019-20 contingent in March, much earlier than expected. However, while they were here they contributed hugely to all our programmes and been a tremendous support to us. They are missed!

"There were so many beautiful moments. My whole stay with CRiBS will be a favourite memory of my life"

Valerie

However, our very first gap-year student from the



UK joined us in September. In spite of the various restrictions, Shannon has still been able to provide support in the office and work with our primary team in the classroom, and has also played a vital role as production assistant on our very first Christmas film.

Since March we have had to work without our other regular volunteers who contribute significantly with office work and fundraising. We would like to say a big

thank you to them and look forward to being able to use their talents in the very near future.

We benefitted from over 4,000 volunteer hours this year

Supporting CRiBS

Being nimble

Before 2020, during one of our team training days, the team were reminded by CEO Mark of the requirement to be prepared to be 'nimble' in our work.

In order to continue to be able to fulfil our vision, guided by an ever-constant gospel and yet in an ever-changing world, it will require the ability to 'adapt and adopt' our services and often times at very short notice.

In the past we have always been ready to meet the requirements of a changing RE syllabus and once again we will be making the changes needed for new changes implemented for 2021.

But in early 2020 the world turned upside down and the need to be nimble became more urgent than expected.

Covid-19

As we all know the pandemic has had a dramatic affect on all our lives and so many things have changed and continue to do so as time passes.

One of the biggest changes has been in the way we communicate, particularly with services such as Zoom, Microsoft Teams, YouTube etc.

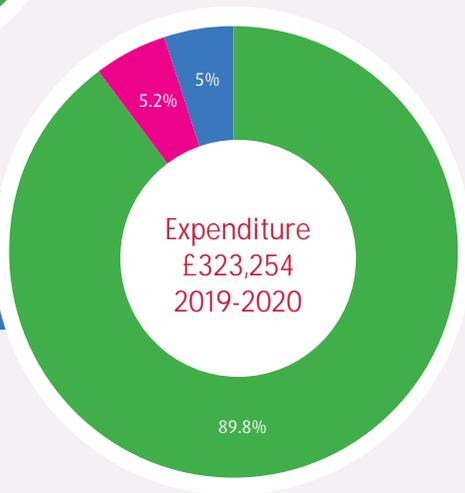
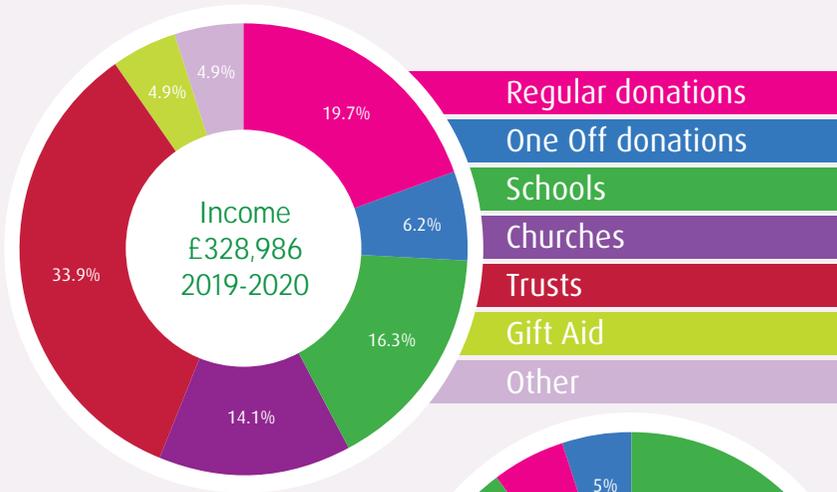
For the CRiBS team, utilising these 'apps' and adapting to produce quality online content for schools has been a steep learning curve. Nevertheless, we rose to the challenge and we aim to continue to be nimble, developing what we do in new ways to allow us to reach a far wider audience and have a greater impact than ever before!

Thank you friends for supporting us through a difficult year. We hope you will continue to journey with us as we share the love of Jesus any way we can!



We wish you a very happy new year and look forward to an exciting 2021

Finance Snapshot 2019-20



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 kept CRiBS going for 27 years. Thank you so much!

How can you help?



Title: Mr Mrs Miss Other:

First Name: Surname:

Organisation (if applicable):

Address:

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Email Address: Telephone:

By providing the details above you are allowing us to contact you in these ways. You can stop updates at any time.

I want to help (Please tick where appropriate)

We will not share your details with third parties

I am returning this response form with a cheque for £ made payable to 'CRiBS'.

Please treat as a gift-aided donation. See declaration below*.

Please send me a standing order form to set up a regular donation.

I intend setting up a regular bank transfer direct from my bank to CRiBS Cooperative bank account 65293438 Sort Code 08-92-99.

Please treat as a gift-aided donation. See declaration below*.

Please send me your newsletters and updates.

I'd like to do a sponsored activity to support CRiBS.

Please send me information about leaving a gift in my will.

I would like to discuss having a speaker come and talk about the work of CRiBS.



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."

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.

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CHRISTIAN RESOURCES IN BEXLEY SCHOOLS

