

Case Study: Reducing Absenteeism by Tackling Hidden Indoor Air Quality Issues

Client: Primary School, Greater Manchester

Subject: Multiple students absent due to persistent coughing

Service: Cirro-Pure Mould Detection, Analysis & Eradication System

Background

Staff at a primary school in Greater Manchester began to notice a recurring pattern: a growing number of pupils from two adjacent classrooms were reporting persistent coughs and chest discomfort. Though not considered medically serious, the issue led to an increase in short-term absences, with some parents expressing concern about potential indoor air issues.

The school, which was cleaned daily and regularly inspected, had no visible signs of water ingress or damp. However, to address concerns from parents and staff, the headteacher contacted Cirro-Pure for a full environmental inspection.

Assessment – Cirro-Pure Mould Detection

A Cirro-Pure-certified technician conducted a structured survey of the affected classrooms using the **Cirro-Pure Mould Detection** system, which included:

- Airborne spore and surface sampling
- Measurement of microbial volatile organic compounds (mVOCs) in parts-per-trillion

Findings:

Elevated microbial activity was detected in two classrooms, particularly around internal walls and flooring junctions. No visible mould was present, but the air samples confirmed a hidden contamination issue likely affecting perceived air quality.

Treatment – Whole-Room Eradication with Certified Results

Cirro-Pure developed a tailored treatment strategy based on the findings, including:

- Full-space deployment of the **Cirro-Pure Mould Eradication System** using our **Clouding™** technology
- Temporary relocation of pupils while treatment was applied over one weekend
- Installation of a **Cirro-Pure Air Extraction System** to maintain long-term air hygiene

Post-treatment testing confirmed spore levels had dropped to below detectable thresholds, and mVOC levels were significantly reduced.

Staff Testimony

“We take pupil health very seriously, so even though there was no visible mould, we wanted a thorough inspection. Cirro-Pure identified an issue that would have gone unnoticed and sorted it quickly and professionally.”

— **Headteacher**

“Since the treatment, the air in those classrooms feels noticeably fresher, and we’ve had far fewer children off with coughs. It’s made a big difference.”

— **Classroom Teacher**

Outcome

In the weeks following the treatment, staff observed a sharp drop in pupil absences due to coughing in the previously affected classrooms. Parents were reassured by the school’s proactive approach and the scientific evidence provided by Cirro-Pure’s before-and-after reporting.

Conclusion

Even in professionally cleaned and well-maintained buildings, hidden mould can affect indoor air quality. In this case, Cirro-Pure's proven detection and eradication systems helped a school respond swiftly and effectively—improving attendance, comfort, and peace of mind.