

Working with Central Bedfordshire to Meet Section 19 Responsibilities

Central
Bedfordshire



“Studybugs saves **huge amounts of time** and is **invaluable** for me to be the most effective in my role.”

Nicola Griggs, Senior School Attendance Officer



The Problem

Central Bedfordshire Council (CBC) were concerned about their process for identifying pupils for Section 19 purposes. Specifically, how it was:

- Time consuming for schools
- Prone to error
- Producing reports too late
- Reactive rather than proactive

CBC approached us to streamline the management of returns to improve accuracy and ensure compliance.



The Solution

We developed an automated process for alerting CBC when their absence and sickness thresholds were met.

Using our direct integration with school systems, 97% of schools now automatically share data through Studybugs, enabling CBC to act immediately on accurate and live information.



The Impact

1. Proactive Approach

Proactive monitoring of sickness, continuous absence and other relevant absence concerns. Live alerts ensure action can be taken immediately.

2. Eased Burden on Schools

Schools no longer need to manually provide some mandatory returns. We've now automated these, saving schools time.

3. Coordinated Working

CBC extended access to the Youth Offending Service, Children's Social Care, School Admissions and School Transport teams, enabling better collaboration between teams.



Andrew Copperwheat

Access and Inclusion Manager

“What's great is that we're able to get a **bird's-eye view for the whole of CBC**, as well as being able to drill down through phase, individual school, to pupil level data. We can quickly identify patterns of attendance and the reasons for absence.

With access to **live pupil attendance information**, it not only supports from an educational perspective but safeguarding as well.”