

SIMS 2019 Summer Release Note

7.188 Combined Edition - version 0.2

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Welcome to the SIMS 2019 Summer Release

Please read these notes carefully before installing or upgrading your software. Do not attempt any installation or upgrade without first making a fully restorable backup of your SIMS system.

Capita SIMS has made this release note available in PDF and Word formats. To take full advantage of the functionality available in this release note (e.g. links to handbooks and video tutorials), you must use the PDF version. Capita SIMS cannot be held responsible for any changes, errors or omissions resulting from subsequent editing of the supplied document.

Important Information – please read before upgrading

If you are performing a SIMS upgrade spanning more than one release, it is essential that you read the release note associated with each version.

Important Information for Schools in England

At the time this release note was produced, we had not yet received the validation and summary report files from the DfE for School Census Autumn 2019 or School Workforce Census 2019. Schools should <u>not</u> provide their Return file to the DfE until they have imported a fileset that includes the official DfE validation and summary report files.

Upgrading using SOLUS

The SIMS Online Update Service (SOLUS) enables you to download and run SIMS releases and patches via the Internet. This is achieved using SOLUS3.

For instructions on carrying out an upgrade with SOLUS3, please refer to the SOLUS3 for Schools or the SOLUS3 for Local Authorities handbook.

Support for SQL Server

SIMS, FMS, Discover, SLG, Partnership Xchange, SOLUS and InTouch run on SQL Server 2012, SQL Server 2014 and SQL Server 2016. For more information on support for SQL Server and Windows environments, please refer to the SIMS Technical Roadmap on My Account (https://myaccount.capita-cs.co.uk).

B₂B

If you use B2B, and you want the SQL Server service to be configured to run as a Domain account instead of the built-in LocalSystem account on Windows 2008 R2 or Windows 2012 Server, a separate patch can be run to enable this functionality. This patch is available from your Local Support Unit (Patch 20419) and it must be applied to your SIMS database by a user with System Administrator permissions.

General

If your school uses both Fees Billing and FMS, then SIMS and FMS must be upgraded at the same time.

Important Information for Windows 8 and Windows Server 2012 Users

If you are running SIMS on a Windows 8 or Windows Server 2012 workstation, you may encounter difficulties when attempting to open PDF files in SIMS. This is caused by Windows Reader being the default program used to open PDF files.

To resolve this issue, you must first ensure that Adobe Reader 10 or later is installed.

Next, you will need to associate Adobe Reader with all PDF files. From the Taskbar, click File Explorer, click Computer in the panel on the left-hand side of the page then from the Menu Bar, select Computer | Open Control Panel. Click Programs | Default Programs | Associate a file type or protocol with a program. In the Extensions list, scroll down to and click the .pdf item then click the Change program button. Click Adobe Reader then click the Close button.





















Release Notes

Each functional area displays a set of icons, which indicate the school type(s) to which the content relates. Icons that indicate a link to the applicable handbook(s) and New Feature videos are also displayed.

EP Content applicable to English Primary and Northern Ireland Primary schools

ES Content applicable to English Secondary and Northern Ireland Secondary schools

WP Content applicable to Welsh Primary schools

WS Content applicable to Welsh Secondary schools

IN Content applicable to Independent schools

Link to the applicable handbook(s)

Link to a New Feature video

If you have any comments or questions regarding any SIMS user documentation, please email us (publications@capita.co.uk).

Backing up SIMS and FMS

Where SIMS Personnel is used to generate Salary Projections in FMS, SIMS and FMS backups should be carried out at the same time. If one of the databases needs to be restored, the other database must be restored to the same point, i.e. if you restore the SIMS database, you must restore the FMS database to the same point and vice versa.

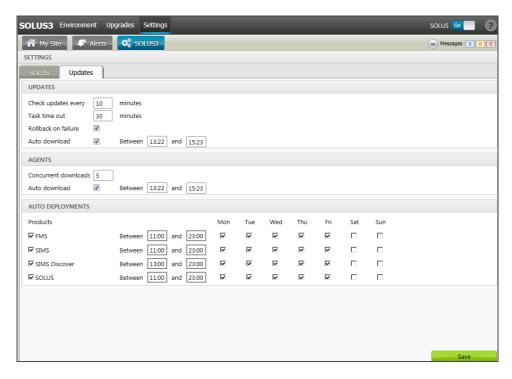
IMPORTANT NOTE: Backups are no longer zipped, because of the number of issues caused by zipping backup files. Recent operating systems now allow the use of compressed folders, which are recommended for automatically compressing backups. Please refer to your operating system documentation for instructions on applying compression to a folder.

Important Information Regarding the Upgrade of SIMS and Discover

IMPORTANT NOTE: You must upgrade to the SIMS 2019 Summer Release before upgrading Discover. If you upgrade Discover before upgrading SIMS, data will not be transferred between the SIMS and Discover databases until SIMS has been upgraded.

Auto-Deployment of SIMS and Discover

If SOLUS3 auto-deployment is enabled for Discover, we recommend that the settings for Discover auto-deployment are set to start later than the SIMS auto-deployment start time plus the timeout.



If the times are not set like this, and the Discover deployment starts before the SIMS deployment, then the data transfer between SIMS and Discover will not work until the SIMS upgrade is completed.



















Important Information Regarding SIMS Documentation

The SIMS Documentation Centre is accessed by clicking the Documentation button on the SIMS Home Page. The principal benefit of the SIMS Documentation Centre is that resources for SIMS, FMS and Discover can all be accessed from a central repository.

It is possible to search for user documentation by output type (handbook, tutorial, QRS, etc.) and then by functional area. It is also possible to search by role (e.g. Teacher, Administrator, Returns Manager, etc.).

A range of Frequently Asked Questions guides can be accessed from the FAQs menu. The Troubleshooting section enables you to investigate any issues you may have when accessing the resources available.

IMPORTANT NOTE: You might encounter issues when attempting to open any New Feature videos or Tutorials whereby you are asked to install the required version of Flash Player and/or an on-screen dialog suggests that Online Help content cannot be displayed. For more information, please click the following link (http://helpx.adobe.com/acrobat/kb/known-issues-acrobat-xi-reader.html).

These issues can be resolved by downloading the latest version of Flash Player (https://helpx.adobe.com/flash-player.html).

A search facility is available in the SIMS, FMS and Discover Documentation Centres. This enables you to locate information across the Documentation Centres or within individual resources (handbooks, release notes, FAQs, etc.). The search facility operates in a similar way to a Google search. To perform a search, enter one or more keywords in the search field (located at the top right-hand side of the Menu Bar) then click the Search (magnifying glass) button. You can use * and ? as wildcards. To search for an exact phrase, enclose more than one word in double quotes, e.g. "debit card".

We would welcome any feedback you have on the SIMS Documentation Centre. If you have any comments, please email the SIMS Publications team (publications@capita.co.uk).

IMPORTANT NOTE: If you are running SIMS on a Windows 8 or Windows Server 2012 workstation, you may encounter difficulties when you first log into SIMS after a SIMS upgrade because the What's New page is displayed automatically and cannot be closed easily. This is caused by Windows Reader being the default program used to open PDF files.

To resolve this issue, you must first ensure that Adobe Reader 10 or later is installed.

Next, you will need to associate Adobe Reader with all PDF files. From the Taskbar, click File Explorer, click Computer in the panel on the left-hand side of the page then from the Menu Bar, select Computer | Open Control Panel. Click Programs | Default Programs | Associate a file type or protocol with a program. In the Extensions list, scroll down to and click the .pdf item then click the Change program button. Click Adobe Reader then click the Close button.

If you require assistance with this or any other issue you encounter when attempting to access user documentation, please contact the SIMS Publications team (publications@capita.co.uk).

User documentation that is accessible via the SIMS Documentation Centre (by clicking the **Documentation** button on the SIMS **Home Page**) is hosted on the web. This approach to delivering user documentation offers you the following benefits:

- A reduction in the download time of a SIMS release from SOLUS
- We can provide user documentation post-release, so you will always have access to the most up-to-date, accurate information.

As a result, documentation provided in PDF format is not deployed to the \SIMS\Documentation folder on your SIMS Server (with the exception of the What's New page, the main **Documentation Centre** navigation page and the Getting Started guide).

NOTE: If you wish to access the latest user documentation for the SIMS 2019 Summer Release without logging into SIMS, the **Documentation Centre** is accessible using a web link (http://simspublications.com/293718/index.html).

Help files are delivered to the \Program Files\SIMS .net folder on each SIMS workstation.











Welsh Secondary







IMPORTANT NOTES: If Google Chrome is your default Web browser, you must download PDF files instead of opening them in Chrome to ensure that PDF files display correctly. This is achieved by entering chrome://settings in the Address Bar then pressing Enter. Scroll to the bottom of the page and click Advanced. In the Privacy and security section, click Content settings. Scroll towards the bottom of the list, click PDF documents and move the Download PDF files instead of automatically opening them in Chrome slider to the on position.

If you experience a problem when attempting to open a page in the **Documentation** Centre, please contact your System Administrator who can enable access to www.simspublications.com.

Advice is provided if you enter simspublications.com in the Address Bar of your Web browser. The **Documentation Centre** location changes with each release, indicated by a six-digit identifier. To ensure that you access the **Documentation Centre** relating to the version of SIMS installed at your establishment, you are strongly advised to access it from the SIMS Home Page (via Focus | Home Page), by clicking the Documentation button.

If you require assistance with this or any other issue you encounter when attempting to access user documentation, please contact the SIMS Publications team (publications@capita.co.uk).

We provide SIMS Documentation Centres and What's New pages for specific school phases, so that user documentation relevant only to your school phase is provided. When you click the **Documentation** button on the SIMS **Home Page**, SIMS interrogates the SIMS SQL database and displays the **Documentation Centre** relevant to your school phase. When a user logs into SIMS for the first time following an upgrade, a What's New page relevant to your school phase is provided.

For schools in Wales, the following key documents are provided in the Welsh language:

- What's New page
- Release note Welsh Primary schools
- Release note Welsh Secondary schools
- End of Key Stage Data Processing (Wales) handbook.

We would welcome any feedback you have on the school phase-specific SIMS Documentation Centres and What's New pages. If you have any comments, please email the SIMS Publications team (publications@capita.co.uk).

Update of the SIMS Documentation Centre in line with the SIMS Software

Some customers have informed us that the SIMS **Documentation Centre** is not being updated in line with the SIMS software; clicking the **Documentation** button on the SIMS Home Page following an upgrade displays content from the previous release.

If you encounter this issue, then the part of the SIMS upgrade that deals with the update of the SIMS Documentation Centre (SIMSApplicationSetup.exe) has failed.

This is caused by the incorrect configuration of the SIMS File Server settings in SOLUS3; it is likely that the File Server has been pointed to the network SIMS drive rather than the local SIMS drive. To resolve this issue, please complete the following steps.

- 1. In SOLUS3, navigate to **Environment | Targets Services** tab.
- Highlight the SIMS File Server service and then click the Edit button.
- 3. Ensure that the **Server name** is the name of the server that hosts the mapped SIMS drive.
- 4. Change the Installation path to the true name of the mapped drive (e.g. D:\Admin Data\SIMS) - do not use a mapped drive letter.
- 5. After correcting the Installation path setting, re-deploy the upgrade (via Upgrades | Deployment History | <select the update> - Redeploy button), choosing only the SIMS File Server from the list of available TARGETS, and then run the upgrade manually.

Where to Find More Information?

Via SIMS...

Independent

For the software handbook, navigate to the SIMS Home Page, click the Documentation button to display the **Documentation Centre**, click the **Handbooks** button then click the required handbook title.









Via My Account...

Documentation is also available from the My Account website (https://myaccount.capita-cs.co.uk).

- 1. Enter the required text in the **Search** field to display a list of documents that match the search criteria.
- 2. To refine the search further, click **Documents** and then select the required Document type, File type and/or Date range (click Show more to view additional options, if required).

Alternatively, click SIMS Publications (located in the Popular Searches list) to display a list of all SIMS publications.

The search results are displayed automatically.

Tips for using the My Account Search Facility

Here are some key tips for using the search facility in My Account. For additional explanations, please refer to the My Account website.

NOTE: You no longer need to use + / - / "" when searching.

- Reduce the number of words you enter in the search field and use only key words, e.g. instead of entering student showing as a contact, search for the word contact.
- Use the **Product Type** filter to refine results further.
- Use the advanced filters located on the left-hand side of the **Search results** page.

If you are unable to obtain the required handbook using any of these methods, please email us (publications@capita.co.uk) and we will be pleased to email a copy to you.

Permissions

The permissions spreadsheet, which lists all permissions relating to SIMS 7.188, is available from the Documentation Centre. To access the SIMS Documentation Centre, click the Documentation button on the SIMS Home Page.

In My Account, select Knowledge Base, SIMS Publications (located in the Popular Searches list), enter 7.188 SIMS Permissions Spreadsheet in the Search for field then click the Find button. Alternatively, use the search facility on the Home Page to display a list of all **Documents** containing the search criteria.

Compatibility between One and SIMS

To be confirmed.

Version Support for FMS

The FMS support arrangements depend on the supported versions of SIMS where Personnel Links is being used. Support for FMS is detailed in the following table.

Release	SIMS Version	FMS Version	FMS with Personnel Links/Equipment Register	FMS without Personnel Links/Equipment Register
Summer 2019	7.188	6.188	Supported	Supported
Spring 2019	7.186	6.186	Supported	Supported

NOTE: FMS 6.188 has been tested against SQL Server 2012, 2014 and 2016.

SLG Compatibility

SLG is guaranteed to support the previous two releases of SIMS, inclusive of any release with which it is shipped.

















Supported SIMS Versions with SLG Summer Release

The SIMS Learning Gateway Summer Release can be used alongside the following versions of SIMS:

- SIMS 2019 Summer Release (SIMS 7.188)
- SIMS 2019 Spring Release (SIMS 7.186).

IMPORTANT NOTE: If you install the SIMS 2019 Summer Release (SIMS 7.188) and continue to run an older release of SLG, this is not guaranteed to work and is therefore not supported.

Supported SIMS Versions with PX Summer Release

The SIMS PX Agent should be upgraded to the PX 2019 Summer Release immediately after, or in conjunction with, upgrading to the SIMS 2019 Summer Release.

IMPORTANT NOTE: If you install the SIMS 2019 Summer Release (SIMS 7.188) and continue to run an older release of the PX Agent, this is not guaranteed to work and is therefore not supported.

Admissions

New Features



Updates to the ADT Import and ASL Export Files

Applicable to Maintained schools in England only

Routines | Admission | Import ADT File Routines | Admission | Export ASL File

Schools that are their own Admission Authority now import versions 15.0 and 16.0 of the ADT files. Previous versions are no longer imported.

Schools that are their own Admission Authority now export version 16.0 of the ASL file.

Recording Whether an Applicant's Free School Meal Eligibility is **Protected**

Applicable to schools in Wales only

Focus | Admission | Application Focus | Pupil (or Student) | Pupil (or Student) Details

The FSM Transitional Protection check box has been added to the Dietary panel of an applicant's record, enabling you to record whether an applicant's free school meal eligibility period has been protected during the implementation of Universal Credit. When an applicant is admitted to your school, the FSM Transitional Protection flag is visible in their pupil/student record.

AMPARK

New Features



Enhancements for the SIMS 2019 Summer Release

The Assessment Manager and Performance Analysis Resource Kit (AMPARK) provides a set of resources for use with SIMS Assessment. This kit has been updated for the SIMS 2019 Summer Release.

For more information, please refer to the Assessment Manager and Performance Analysis Resource Kit release note, available from the My Account website (https://myaccount.capita-cs.co.uk).



















Assessment

New Features



Provision of Medical Conditions as an Additional Student Column and a **Group Filter**

Focus | Assessment | Marksheet Entry Focus | Assessment | Template

It is now possible to display Medical Conditions as an additional student information column and when applying a group filter to a marksheet.

Inserting the Full Name Tag into Individual Reports

Focus | Assessment | Individual Report

The Full Name tag can now be inserted into Assessment individual reports from the Student Details menu.

Recording an Assessment of Overall Performance at Subject and Strand Level

Applicable to schools in Wales only

Focus | Assessment | Programme of Study Tracking Entry

The new FP & KS2 Overall grade set links to the grade aspects for the new Overall (Subject) grade column and the new Overall strand grade column, both of which can now be populated on the **Programme of Study Tracking** page. This grade set is applicable only after 1 September 2019.

Attendance

New Features



Full Name Option Added to Attendance Letter Definition

Tools | Setups | Attendance Setup | Letter Definition

When defining an attendance letter, the new **full_name** option is available from the Insert Merge Field list (between surname and chosen_name).

If selected, the pupil/student's full name is displayed as chosen forename, middle name and legal surname. If the chosen forename is not available, the legal forename is displayed instead.

Addition of the Attendance Mark Date/Time Recorded Field in the **Reporting Dictionary**

Reports | Design Reports - Student

The date and time that an attendance mark was recorded can now be displayed in a report.

The new Recorded On sub-report is available when Attendance Marks or Lesson Marks are included the report design.

Course Manager

New Features



Revised List of QWADs provided by the Welsh Government

Applicable to schools in Wales only

The list of QWADs provided by the Welsh Government has been updated for Summer 2019. QWADs are reported on in the Post 16 PLASC 2019 Return and have replaced the Learning Activity Reference.

















Changes to the Welsh Baccalaureate Panel

Applicable to schools in Wales only

Tools | Examinations | Import Qualification Data

The Welsh Baccalaureate panel is now read-only. It is no longer possible to record points and threshold values for QANs.

Cover

New Features



Recording Cover Notes for an Absence

Focus | School | Arrange Cover Focus | Person | Staff

Any notes that are recorded when defining a staff absence are now displayed in the **Absence** panel of their staff record.

CTF

New Features



Update to the CTF Version Number

Applicable to schools in England, Wales and Northern Ireland only

Routines | Data In | CTF | Import CTF

Before 1 August 2019, CTF version 17.0 or 18.0 can be used for the import of CTF.

From 1 August 2019 onwards, CTF version 18.0 or 19.0 can be used for the import of CTF.

Routines | Data Out | CTF | Export CTF

Before 1 August 2019, CTF version 18.0 is used for the export of CTF.

From 1 August 2019 onwards, CTF version 19.0 will be used for the export of CTF.

Changes to the Data Collected in CTF

Applicable to schools in England only

Routines | Data Out | CTF | Export CTF Routines | Data In | CTF | Import CTF

The tags for Nationality, Country of Birth and Proficiency in English have been removed.

Inclusion of FSM Transitional Protection Flag in CTF

Applicable to schools in Wales only

Routines | Data Out | CTF | Export CTF

A new tag called <FSMTransitionalProtection> has been added to the NAWDetails container in the CTF export file. From 1 August 2019, it will be possible to transfer the details of the FSM Transitional Protection flag.

DENI

New Features



Pupil/Student Educated Off-Site but Not in a School

Focus | Pupil (or Student) | Pupil (or Student) Details

The Educated in another site but not in a school check box has been removed from the Registration panel of the Pupil (or Student) Details page.

Dual Registered Leaver

Routines | Pupil (or Student) | Change Enrolment Status

The Reason for Dual Registration drop-down list in the Change Enrolment Status panel of the Change Enrolment Status page now displays a choice of SEN or EOTAS only; the SEN and EOTAS option has been removed.











Shared Education

Tools | Lookups | Maintain Focus | Pupil (or Student) | Pupil (or Student) Details

The following changes have been made to **Shared Education**:

- Maintaining lookups the new Shared Education value is available under Learner Support.
- Pupil/Student Details Shared Education is now available for selection via the **Learner Support** section of the **Additional Information** panel.

Changes to the Reporting Dictionary

Report | Design Reports

The following changes have been made to the Reporting Dictionary:

- A **Newcomer** field has been added as a Sort Order option.
- User defined reports if the Learner Support sub-report is selected, the pupil/student's Share Education status is included in the generated report, if applicable.

Key Dates for DENI 2019

Routines | Statutory Returns | DENI | Create DENI Return Routines | Statutory Returns | DENI | Create Leavers Return

Main return date: 11/10/2019

Leavers return date: 08/11/2019

Leavers collection period: 05/10/2018 to 10/10/2019.

Preparation Panels for EOTAS Schools

Applicable to Education Other Than at School (EOTAS) only

Routines | Statutory Returns | DENI | Prepare DENI Return

The Projected Numbers and Year Group of Study preparation panels are no longer displayed for EOTAS schools.

Preparation Panels for Primary Schools

Applicable to Primary schools only

Routines | Statutory Returns | DENI | Prepare DENI Return

The **Attendance** preparation panel is no longer displayed for Primary schools.

Validation Rules

SEN validation rules that are no longer required have been removed. This includes all SEN validations for leavers in 2019.

Validation rules have been updated to reflect the SEN code changes that took place in September 2018.

The following validation rules are new for 2019.

Code	Validation Message
1156	There should be an entry of Shared Education for the current academic year in Learner Support.
1157	Addresses in the Republic of Ireland should have a postcode.
1158	All pupils must have a valid date of birth.
1159	Pupil has an invalid reason for dual registration.
1160	Pupil with invalid medical code.
1161	A pupil should not have both SEN Needs BL and PS.

Changes to Reports

Routines | Statutory Returns | DENI | Create DENI Return Routines | Statutory Returns | DENI | Create Leavers Return

Main Summary report:

The **Attendance Codes** section of the report now includes a code | column. The description for code J is included in the **Key to Codes** at the end of the report.















- The Pupils educated off-site but not in a school line has been removed.
- The Shared Education pupils row has been added (located after the existing Pupils with a PEP on Census Date row).

Main detail report:

- The Nation, Refugee and Country of Birth columns have been removed.
- The Educated In Another Site But Not In A School column has been removed.
- The **Attendance** details section of the report now includes a code J column.
- A new Shared Education column (located after the existing Disability column) has been added.

Leavers Summary report:

The first line in the **Traveller Accommodation Type** section has been changed from Special Housing to Social Housing.

Leavers detail report:

- The Nation, Refugee and Country of Birth columns have been removed.
- The Educated In Another Site But Not In A School column has been removed.

Examinations Organiser

New Features



Enhancements to the Entry Report

Tools | Examination | Entry Report

The Entry Mode column has been added to the Entry Report output. This column displays the type of entry for each qualification, e.g. private entries (P), centre entries (C), etc.

When defining the report parameters, the Season drop-down list now displays the most recent season at the top of the list.

Enhancements to Manage Performance Indicator

Applicable to schools in England only

Tools | Examinations | Manage Performance Indicator

Over the last 3 years, GCSEs in England have been reformed to use a new grade set of 9-1 instead of the legacy grades of A*-G. However, not all reformed GCSEs were introduced at the same time. English and Maths results were first achieved in 2017. Most of the remaining GCSEs achieved their first reformed results in 2018. In 2019, the remaining GCSEs will be graded at 9-1. There may be a small number to be updated in 2020 but for 2019, almost all GCSEs are on the 9-1 grade set.

To minimise the need for schools to input points and values manually for additional 9-1 GCSEs from Summer 2019 onwards, the Populate Grade Details from Similar QNs process has been provided.

Details of existing qualifications with the same qualification type and grade set that are already present in SIMS are displayed for selection, so that the existing points and values can be copied and applied to any new qualifications that share the same qualification type and grade set. It is also possible to apply existing points and values via the Add **Existing QN** button.

Enhancements to Edit PI Data

Applicable to schools in England only

Tools | Examinations | Edit PI Data

A number of enhancements have been made to Edit PI Data to accommodate DfE changes for 2019.

Edit PI panel

- A*-C column renamed to KS4 9-4
- A*-G column renamed to KS4 9-1
- 13 Pts column renamed to KS5 Pts
- L3 Ave column renamed to KS5 Avg
- KS4 Ave column renamed to KS4 Avg.



















Performance Results panel

- KS4 A*-C column renamed to KS4 9-4
- KS4 A*-G column renamed to KS4 9-1.

The following columns have been added to display the correct points counted for a qualification result (e.g. Advanced Subsidiary (AS) Levels) when taken at either KS4 or at KS5:

- **KS4 Points**
- KS5 Points.

Add Results dialog

In the KS4 Equivalences section:

- A*-C renamed to 9-4
- A*-G renamed to 9-1.

In the KS5 Equivalences section:

Level 3 Equivalence renamed to Key Stage 5 Equivalence.

Additional 9-1 Subjects for KS4 Qualification Discounting

Applicable to schools in England only

Tools | Examinations | Edit PI Data

Additional subjects for the GCSE 9-1 qualification have now been incorporated into the Edit PI Data discounting calculations.

Once new reformed GCSEs (9-1) are introduced for a subject, the old-style legacy GCSEs (A*to G), International GCSEs or Level 1/Level 2 Certificates in the same subject are no longer counted in the performance tables. This includes early entries for legacy qualifications prior to 2017 and 2018. From 2019, the only GCSEs counted in the following subjects are the new reformed GCSEs graded 9 - 1. This includes EBacc Subjects.

Reformed 9-1 GCSEs count only in these subjects for EBacc	Other Subjects
Ancient History	Astronomy
Arabic	Business
Bengali	Classical Civilisation
Chinese	Design and Technology
Italian	Economics
Japanese	Electronics
Modern Greek	Engineering
Modern Hebrew	Film Studies
Panjabi	Geology
Polish	Media Studies
Russian	Psychology
Urdu	Sociology
Statistics	

Updates to the Estimated Attainment 8 Table

Applicable to schools in England only

Focus | Assessment | Marksheet Entry

The Estimated Attainment 8 Table has been updated to reflect changes to the Key Stage 2 Fine Level for 2019.

















Enhancements to the Key Stage 4 Performance Indicator Reports

Applicable to schools in England only

Tools | Examinations | PI Reports

A number of enhancements have been made to the PI reports to reflect DfE requirements for 2019.

KS4 Summary Report Output

Two rows have been added to the **Progress 8** section of the summary report output:

- Progress 8 Score (Adjusted)
- Progress 8 Score (Unadjusted).

These rows display school-level information for the Progress 8 Measure.

The Progress 8 Score (Adjusted) row adjusts the individual student's Progress 8 value by applying a minimum progress score that can be assigned to students within Prior Attainment groups where negative scores are recorded.

The Progress 8 Score (Unadjusted) row provides a comparison with the Progress 8 Score (Adjusted) row value. Adjustments are not applied to this row value or to an individual student's Progress 8 score.

Additional information relating to the current Progress 8 methodology and values is available from the DfE website. The document is called Secondary Accountability Measures Guide for Maintained Secondary Schools, Academies and Free Schools - March 2019.

KS4 Detailed Report Output

Two columns have been added to the **Progress 8** section of the detailed report output:

- Prog. 8 Score (Adjusted)
- Prog. 8 Score (Unadjusted).

These columns display values as detailed in the previous item.

Enhancements to the Age 16-18 Performance Indicator Reports

Applicable to schools in England only

Tools | Examinations | PI Reports

A number of enhancements have been made to the PI Reports to reflect DfE requirements for 2019.

Age 16-18 Summary Report Output

Two rows have been added to the **Additional Measures** section of the summary report

- Number of students who achieved A*-C in GCSE Maths (or equivalent) by the end of Key Stage 4
- Number of students who go on to achieve an approved Level 3 Maths qualification.

These rows provide school-level information relating to the Level 3 Additional Maths Measure.

Age 16-18 Detailed Report Output

Two columns have been added to the Additional Measures section of the detailed report output:

- In Scope Level 3 Maths
- Level 3 Maths Achieved.

These columns provide pupil-level information relating to the Level 3 Additional Maths Measure.

Enhancements to the Subject/Grade Analysis Report

Applicable to schools in England only

Reports | Results | Subject/Grade Analysis

The report now populates the A*-C column when <All> is selected from the Season drop-down list in conjunction with the Level of 9FC - GCSE (9-1) Full Course.









Updated Performance Measures File

Applicable to schools in Wales only

Tools | Examinations | Import Qualification Data

The Performance Measures file has been updated in line with the WG requirements for 2019. This file is available from the SIMS Exams Hot Topic on My Account (https://myaccount.capita-cs.co.uk).

Implementation of Early Entry Discounting Rules

Applicable to schools in Wales only

Tools | Examinations | Edit PI Data

From Summer 2019, only the result achieved for the first awarding of a completed qualification (including vocational qualifications) is counted towards the KS4 Performance Measures.

If multiple results have been achieved for one qualification, the collation and calculation processes in Edit PI Data cannot always determine which of the results was attained first. Therefore, some results are left without discounting and manual discounting must be applied in this circumstance. To assist with discounting, the Syllabus Code column has been included in the **Performance Results** panel in Edit PI Data.

In the Add Result dialog, you must specify the syllabus code before you can save the result. Non-EDI results from previous seasons will not have a syllabus code and will therefore need to be discounted manually, as appropriate.

Amending Partial Discounting for the 40% Non-GCSE Contribution

Applicable to schools in Wales only

Tools | Examinations | Edit PI Data

In some circumstances, the collation and calculation process in Edit PI Data shows partial discounting for a qualification which, if counted in full, contravenes the 40% contribution of non-GCSEs to Performance Measures. With the implementation of the new Early Entry rules, on occasion the partial discount flag can prevent the correct results from being discounted. The partial discounting can be removed manually and full discounting applied, if required. Standard discounting, for example, where an AS Level qualification discounts a GCSE, is still applied automatically.

Enhancements to the Welsh Baccalaureate Panel

Applicable to schools in Wales only

Tools | Examinations | Import Qualification Data

The Welsh Baccalaureate panel is now read-only, meaning it is no longer possible to enter points and threshold values for QANs. The Welsh Baccalaureate continues to use the Best Result achieved in compliance with 2019 rules.

Enhancements to the Capped 9 Measures in the Key Stage 4 Summary Report Output

Applicable to schools in Wales only

Tools | Examinations | PI Reports

The Capped 9 Score (Average) in the Key Stage 4 Summary Report output has been updated for 2019 to take account of the Early Entry rules and the changes to the number of subject-specific and other slots.

- Literacy Single slot
- Numeracy Single slot
- Science Single slot
- Other Six slots.



















Enhancements to the Entry Report

Applicable to schools in Wales only

Tools | Examinations | Entry Report

The Entry Mode column has been added to the Entry Report output. This column displays the type of entry for each qualification, e.g. private entries (P), centre entries (C), etc.

Additionally, the display order in the **Season** drop-down list now displays the most recent season at the top of the list.

Revisions to the Key Stage 4 PI Reports

Applicable to schools in Wales only

Tools | Examinations | PI Reports

Two rows have been added to the Summary report output.

- Achieving the Level 2 Threshold including English/Welsh and Maths (with Language or Literature)
- Achieving the Level 2 Threshold including English/Welsh and Maths (with Language).

These rows provide school-level information relating to the Level 2 Inclusive Measure and have been updated to reflect the Early Entry rules for 2019.

There are four new **Average Point Score** measures for 2019:

- Literacy Measure
- Numeracy measure
- Science measure
- Welsh Bacc Skills Challenge Certificate.

Annual Updates to the NIEFQAN Import Utility for 2019

Applicable to schools in Northern Ireland only

Tools | Performance | Exams | Import Qualification Data

The NIEFQAN.xml file has been updated in line with the requirements for 2019.

Average Point Score Per Entry Row Removed from the 16-18 Summary Report

Applicable to schools in Northern Ireland only

Tools | Examinations | PI Reports

The Average Point Score per Entry row has been removed from the 16-18 Summary report. This data is not visible when printing the report to Word or to Excel. However, this data is still displayed after selecting the XML export option.

Fees Billing

New Features





Provision of Additional Transaction Types

Tools | Fees Billing | Transaction Type

To support Fees Billing integration with SIMS Pay, two new transaction types (WebPay and WebRef) have been provided.

SIMS Pay users can integrate Fees Billing with SIMS Pay through SIMS Services Manager.

SIMS Pay users will be able to see the fees they owe in SIMS Pay. They will also be able to make payments in SIMS Pay that will update the General Ledger in Fees.

The Fees Manager will receive alerts on the My Reminders widget on the SIMS Home Page, e.g. transactions/balances/updates and failures.

Fee refunds made using SIMS Pay also update the General Ledger in Fees.













FMS

For information on the new features, enhancements and fixes included in FMS 6.188, please refer to the FMS 6.188 Release Note.

Lesson Monitor

New Features



Full Name Option Added to Attendance Letter Definition

Tools | Setups | Attendance Setup | Letter Definition

When defining an attendance letter, the new **full_name** option is available from the Insert Merge Field list (between surname and chosen_name).

If selected, the student's full name is displayed as chosen forename, middle name and legal surname. If the chosen forename is not available, the legal forename is displayed instead.

Addition of the Attendance Mark Date/Time Recorded Field in the **Reporting Dictionary**

Reports | Design Reports - Student

The date and time that an attendance mark was recorded can now be displayed in a report.

The new Recorded On sub-report is available when Attendance Marks or Lesson Marks are included the report design.

Nova-T6

New Features



Provision of Additional Warning Messages

Process | Model

When constructing the timetable model, a warning message is now displayed when you elect to Clear the model. Clicking the Clear button removes all the blocks and classes from the selected year. This action cannot be undone using the **Undo** button so caution must be exercised.

Model | Wizard

When submitting a timetable using the **Curriculum Matching** wizard, an additional warning message is displayed when the Export Band structure only check box is selected. This check box should be selected only when transferring band structures for use in the Options process.

Options Online



Options Online does not form part of the SIMS 2019 Summer Release.

For information on the latest release of Options Online, please refer to the Options Online Newsfeed notification, which is available from the My Account website (https://myaccount.capita-cs.co.uk).













Independent





16

Post 16 PLASC 2019 Return

New Features

WP WS

Key Dates for the Post 16 PLASC Return

Routines | Statutory Return | Post 16 PLASC

Survey reference date is 31/07/2019

Collection period from 01/09/2018 to 31/08/2019.

Profiles

New Features



Adding the Full Name Tag to a Comment

Focus | Profiles | Comment Banks

The Full Name tag can now be added to a comment via the Fields Editor panel.

Reporting

Once you have upgraded to the SIMS 2019 Summer Release, please remember to import the most up-to-date predefined reports. To import the reports, select Reports | Import, then navigate to and select PreDefined_Reports_v7188.RptDef (typically found in C:\Program Files (x86)\SIMS\SIMS .net). Once imported, the updated reports are available to all users with the appropriate permissions.

New Features



Provision of Report Usage Information

Reports | Run Report

The **Report** browser now displays the number of times a report has been run (Times Accessed) and the date on which the report was Last Accessed. These columns remain blank until the report is run.

Changes to the Reporting Dictionary

Report | Design Reports

The following changes have been made to the Reporting Dictionary:

- To coincide with the change of screen labels throughout SIMS, many of the fields and sub-reports in the Reporting Dictionary that previously referred to Gifted & Talented have been changed to More Able and Talented.
- The date and time that an attendance mark was recorded can now be displayed in a report. The new Recorded On sub-report is available when Attendance Marks or **Lesson Marks** are included the report design.
- For schools in Northern Ireland, the Newcomer field has been added as a Sort Order option.
- For schools in Northern Ireland, if the Learner Support sub-report is selected, the pupil/student's Share Education status is included in the generated report, if applicable.

School Census Autumn 2019 Return

New Features



Key Dates for the School Census Autumn 2019 Return

Routines | Statutory Return | School Census

Census Date: 03/10/2019

Termly attendance collected from 22/04/2019 to 31/07/2019

Exclusions collected from 01/01/2019 to 31/08/2019

Free School Meals collected from 17/05/2019 to 03/10/2019

Learning Aims collected from 01/08/2018 to 03/10/2019.

















Exclusions

The collection period for exclusions in the School Census Autumn 2019 Return only is for the Spring and Summer terms (01/01/2019 to 31/08/2019).

Lunchtime exclusions are no longer collected.

Prior Attainment

Applicable to Secondary schools only

Tools | Statutory Return Tools | Update Prior Attainment

A new exemption code is now available, i.e. Functional skills level 2.

Students with a pass grade in maths or English Functional skills level 2 can be recorded in the School Census Autumn 2019 onwards as an exemption (i.e. code F - Functional skills L2 in the Maths or English GCSE funding exemption).

The highest grades for maths and English for the previous year (2018/2019) are included in the Autumn census.

Schools can now make corrections to the highest grades for the previous academic year and re-submit in the Autumn census.

Post-16 Planned Hours

Applicable to Secondary schools only

Tools | Academic Management | Course Manager | Post-16 Programmes of Study

The Planned Hours for the previous year (2018/2019) are included in the Autumn School Census.

Schools can now make corrections to the planned hours for the previous academic year and re-submit in the Autumn Census.

School Workforce Annual Census

New Features



School Workforce Annual Census

Routines | Statutory Returns | School Workforce Annual Census

The Welsh Government requires Maintained schools (including Special schools and Pupil Referral Units) to submit this new return.

The School Workforce Annual Census (SWAC) should be run on Tuesday 5 November 2019.

School Workforce Census

New Features



Key Dates for the School Workforce Census

Routines | Statutory Returns | School Workforce Census

Census date: 07/11/2019

Absence collected from 01/09/2018 to 31/08/2019

Continuous contracts collected from 01/09/2018 to 07/11/2019.

School Workforce Census Filenames

To comply with the DfE requirements, SWC has been removed from the School Workforce Census filenames and replaced with SWF, e.g.

999XXXX SWF 823LL19 001 Basic Details.XML.

The filenames affected by this change are the .una, .xml and .int files, as well as all reports (including the validations error summary).



















Changes to Staff SWR Posts

The following changes have been made to staff SWR posts.

Staff SWR Post - Code	Staff Category	Status
Apprentice Teacher (APP)	Contracted teacher	Active (New)
Leadership Non Teaching (LNT)	Contracted other support staff	Active (New)
Other Support Staff (OSP)	Contracted other support staff	Active (New)
Support Staff (SUP)	Contracted other support staff	Inactive

The Support Staff (SUP) code has been made inactive but will still be collected and then converted to Other Support Staff (OSP) in the return.

SIMS Core

New Features



References to Gifted and Talented Amended to More Able and Talented

Focus | Pupil (or Student) | Special Educational Needs

Across the Special Educational Needs area in SIMS, and other pupil/student-related areas, some of the Gifted & Talented, Gifted and G&T screen labels have been changed to reflect More Able (and Talented).

Enhancements to Conduct Screens

English Primary

Focus | Behaviour Management | Maintain Achievements

Focus | Behaviour Management | Maintain Behaviour Incidents

Focus | Behaviour Management | Maintain Detentions

A number of subsidiary panels have been left-aligned and a scroll bar is now available where there are multiple entries that can be viewed.

Changes to Pupil/Student Exclusions

Focus | Pupil (or Student) | Exclusions

The following enhancements have been made to the process of recording pupil/student exclusions:

- The Discipline Committee and Appeal Details panels have been renamed to Governor Review and Independent Review Panel (IRP) respectively.
- A new panel enables the recording of the Final Governor Review Outcome. A new lookup (Review Result) is also available. This information will be collected in the School Census return from Spring 2020.

Provision of the Exclusion Review Result Lookup

Tools | Lookups | Maintain

To reflect the changes made to the pupil/student exclusions process, the new Exclusion **Review Result** lookup contains the following values:

- A Exclusion upheld by initial governor review (confirmed).
- B Exclusion upheld by governing body after IRP recommended governing board to reconsider reinstatement.
- C Exclusion upheld by governing body after IRP directed governing board to reconsider reinstatement.
- D Exclusion upheld by IRP independent review panel (confirmed).
- E Pupil accepted reinstatement after initial governor review.
- F Pupil accepted offer of reinstatement after IRP recommended governing board to reconsider reinstatement.
- G Pupil accepted offer of reinstatement after IRP directed governing board to reconsider reinstatement.
- H Pupil declined reinstatement after initial governor review.
- | Pupil declined offer of reinstatement after IRP recommended governing board to reconsider reinstatement.





















K - Pupil declined offer of reinstatement after IRP directed governing board to reconsider reinstatement.

Enhancements to Pupil/Student Enrolment Status Change

Routines | Pupil (or Student) | Change Enrolment Status

When changing a pupil/student's enrolment status from On-Roll to Guest, the warning message now informs you that to retain the pupil/student's attendance marks, you must make them a leaver before re-admitting them as a Guest. If you proceed, all stored session attendance marks will be deleted from SIMS. This process cannot be reversed.

Additionally, when changing a pupil/student's enrolment status from Guest to On-Roll, the warning message now advises you to update registers because session attendance marks are required from the date of the pupil/student's admission as a Guest.

Enhancements to the Modifying a Pupil/Student's Address Process

Focus | Pupil (or Student) | Pupil (or Student) Details

The Additional persons at this address table has been added to the Addresses panel on the pupil/student record. Any parents, applicants, staff or other contacts who share the same address as the pupil/student are displayed.

A warning message is now displayed when changing the pupil/student's current address, indicating that all other people registered at this address will be affected by the change.

Inclusion of Service Children Concerns in the Person Data Output Report

Routines | Data Out | Person Data Output

The Service Children Concerns panel has been added to the Person Data Output report. This panel is displayed only when pupil/students have Service Children **Concerns** recorded in the **Additional Information** panel of the pupil/student record.

Provision of a New Column for Last FSM in Pupil Premium

Tools | Pupil Premium | Maintain

The Last FSM column has been added to the file import, the Maintain Pupil Premium page and the Pupil Premium report. This column provides information regarding the last census in which a pupil/student was identified as being eligible for free school meals.

Change to the Visual Impairment SEN Need Type Lookup Value

Applicable to schools in England and Wales only

Tools | Lookups | Maintain

In line with current governance, the SEN Need Type lookup value description of Visual Impairment has changed to Vision Impairment.

Pupil/Student Educated Off-Site but Not in a School

Applicable to schools in Northern Ireland only

Focus | Pupil (or Student) | Pupil (or Student) Details

The Educated in another site but not in a school check box has been removed from the Registration panel of the Pupil (or Student) Details page.

Dual Registered Leaver

Applicable to schools in Northern Ireland only

Routines | Pupil (or Student) | Change Enrolment Status

The Reason for Dual Registration drop-down list in the Change Enrolment Status panel of the Change Enrolment Status page now displays a choice of SEN or EOTAS only; the **SEN and EOTAS** option has been removed.

Shared Education

Applicable to schools in Northern Ireland only

Tools | Lookups | Maintain Focus | Pupil (or Student) | Pupil (or Student) Details

The following changes have been made to **Shared Education**:

- Maintaining lookups the new Shared Education value is available under Learner Support.
- Pupil/Student Details Shared Education is now available for selection via the Learner Support section of the Additional Information panel.



















Enhancements to the Medical Conditions Lookup Values

Applicable to schools in Northern Ireland only

Tools | Lookups | Maintain Focus | Pupil (or Student) | Pupil (or Student) Details

The <NONE> value in the Medical Conditions lookup has been made inactive. Additionally, where this value is recorded in a pupil/student's record, it has been removed so that related validation errors do not occur when creating the DENI return.

SIMS ID



SIMS ID enables a single login point for multiple pieces of software. It works by synchronising key user data between SIMS and SIMS ID, enabling a Single Sign On (SSO) experience for pupil/students, staff and parents. Accounts, groups and timetable data are synchronised between SIMS and SIMS ID, with both administrators and users accessing SIMS ID as their go to point entry for local and online services.

- SIMS ID Light manages users in Cloud Services such as Hosted SIMS, Office 365 and Google.
- SIMS ID Standard manages users in Local Services such as Active Directory, as well as Cloud Services where required.

SIMS ID does not form part of the SIMS 2019 Summer Release. For more information, please visit the SIMS ID product page on the Capita SIMS website (http://www.capitasims.co.uk/simsid).

SIMS Parent and SIMS Parent Lite



SIMS Parent and SIMS Parent Lite do not form part of the SIMS 2019 Summer Release.

For information on the latest releases of these products, please refer to the SIMS Parent (https://myaccount.capita-cs.co.uk/hot-topics/sims-parent-app-student-app/) and SIMS Parent Lite (https://myaccount.capita-cs.co.uk/hot-topics/SIMS-Parent-Lite/) Newsfeed notifications, which are available from the My Account website.

SIMS Pay



SIMS Pay does not form part of the SIMS 2019 Summer Release.

For information on the latest release of SIMS Pay, please refer to the SIMS Pay release note, which is available from the My Account website (https://myaccount.capitacs.co.uk).

SIMS Services Manager



The SIMS 2019 Summer Release does not include an update to SIMS Services Manager and it does not provide the facility to install the product.

If SSM is not currently installed, the latest version is available from SIMS Release Download Links and Product Information in the Notifications area on My Account (https://myaccount.capita-cs.co.uk/Notifications/SIMS-Release-Download-Links/).

The current version ensures compatibility between SIMS and SSM, as well as products that make use of SSM.

For customers that centrally host SSM, please refer to the most recent manual SSM update, which is available from SIMS Release Download Links and Product Information in the Notifications area on My Account (https://myaccount.capitacs.co.uk/Notifications/SIMS-Release-Download-Links/).

Teacher app



SIMS Teacher app Compatibility

The SIMS Teacher app is guaranteed to support the previous two releases of SIMS, inclusive of any release with which it is shipped.

The SIMS Teacher app can be used alongside the following versions of SIMS:

- SIMS 2019 Summer Release (SIMS 7.188)
- SIMS 2019 Spring Release (SIMS 7.186).





















Please note that the Teacher app does <u>not</u> form part of the SIMS 2019 Summer Release. For information on new features and enhancements, please refer to the What's New section of the SIMS Teacher app Help Centre, which is available by clicking the Help **Centre** button in the app.













Welsh Primary





