



SIMS 2020 Summer Release Note

7.194 Combined Edition - version 0.2

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Welcome to the SIMS 2020 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 2020 or School Workforce Census 2020. Schools should not 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, 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 the Capita Software Support Portal

(https://support.capitasoftware.com/csm?id=kb_article_view&sysparm_article=KB0035434).

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.

-  *Content applicable to English Primary and Northern Ireland Primary schools*
-  *Content applicable to English Secondary and Northern Ireland Secondary schools*
-  *Content applicable to Welsh Primary schools*
-  *Content applicable to Welsh Secondary schools*
-  *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.com).

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.

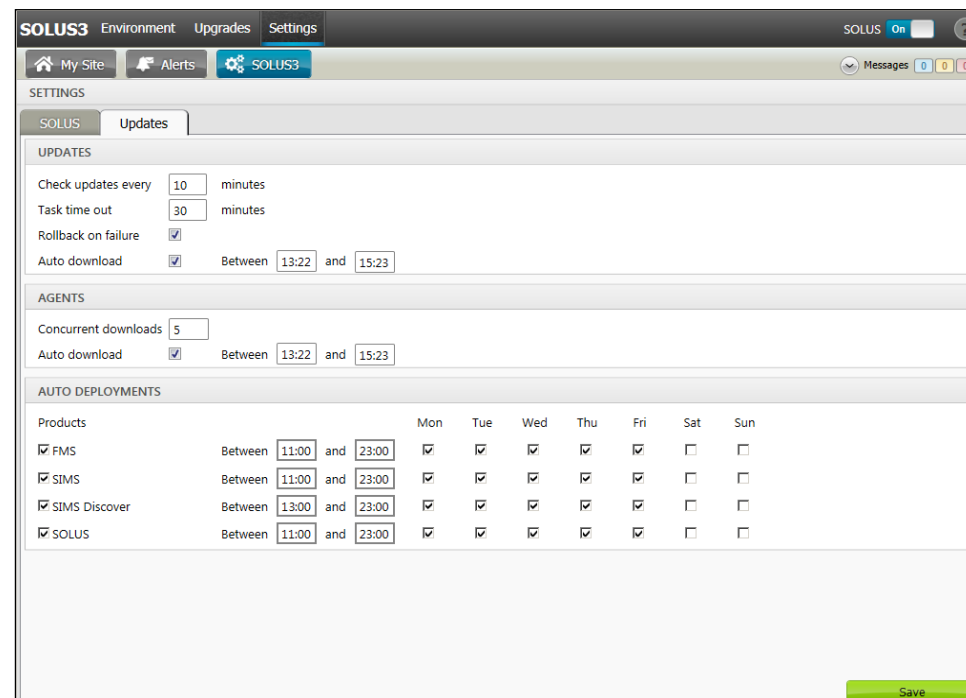
IMPORTANT NOTE: Backups are no longer zipped, because of the number of issues caused by zipping backup files. Recent operating systems now allow the use of compressed folders, which are recommended for automatically compressing backups. Please refer to your operating system documentation for instructions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

Important Information Regarding the Upgrade of SIMS and Discover

IMPORTANT NOTE: You must upgrade to the SIMS 2020 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.



The screenshot shows the SOLUS3 Settings page, specifically the Updates and Auto Deployments sections. The Updates section includes settings for check frequency (10 minutes), task timeout (30 minutes), rollback on failure (checked), and auto-download (checked) between 13:22 and 15:23. The AGENTS section shows concurrent downloads set to 5 and auto-download (checked) between 13:22 and 15:23. The AUTO DEPLOYMENTS section is a table with columns for Products, time ranges, and days of the week (Mon-Sun).

Products	Between	and	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FMS	Between	11:00 and 23:00	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SIMS	Between	11:00 and 23:00	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SIMS Discover	Between	13:00 and 23:00	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SOLUS	Between	11:00 and 23:00	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

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**.

User documentation is arranged by output type (handbook, tutorial, QRS, etc.) and then by functional area. It is also arranged by role (e.g. Teacher, Administrator, Returns Manager, etc.). Frequently Asked Questions and Troubleshooting sections are also available.

User documentation that is accessible via the SIMS **Documentation Centre** is hosted on the web. Help files are delivered to the `\Program Files\SIMS\SIMS .net` folder on each SIMS workstation.

NOTE: If you wish to access the latest user documentation for the SIMS 2020 Summer Release without logging into SIMS, the **Documentation Centre** is accessible via the Capita Software Support Portal (https://support.capitasoftware.com/csm?id=kb_article_view&sysparm_article=KB0036819).

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 SIMS **Documentation Centre**. If you have any comments, please email the SIMS Publications team (publications@capita.com).

NEW in Summer 2020

Our Documentation Centres have changed.

We have migrated to an industry standard knowledge management solution, which simplifies access to a consolidated range of resources, including product documentation, user guides, support solutions and community expertise. The transition should enable customers to find what they need faster and provides the tools for us to continually improve the content we make available.

How you access the Documentation Centres from within the various products will not change:

- In SIMS 7, click the **Documentation** button on the SIMS **Home Page** (via **Focus | Home Page**)
- In FMS, select **Help | FMS Documentation**
- In Discover, click the **?** button
- In Satellite products, click the **Help** link.

Alternatively, visit the SIMS User Documentation Hub (https://support.capitasoftware.com/csm?id=kb_article_view&sysparm_article=KB0037321), where you can access our range of Documentation Centres.

If you have any comments or questions regarding any SIMS user documentation, please email the SIMS Publications team (publications@capita.com). Alternatively, you can provide feedback on each Documentation Centre resource using the **Helpful?** and **Rate this article** functions. When giving feedback, please provide enough information for us to locate and investigate the issue.

Important information about using the SIMS Documentation Centre

- 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. More information on these issues is available (<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>).

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

Where to Find More Information?

Via SIMS...

For the software handbooks, navigate to the SIMS **Home Page**, then click the **Documentation** button to display the SIMS **Documentation Centre**.

Via the Capita Software Support Portal...

User documentation is also available from the Capita Software Support Portal (<https://capitaswprod.service-now.com/csm>).

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

Permissions

The permissions spreadsheet, which lists all permissions relating to SIMS 7.194, is available from the **Documentation Centre**. To access the SIMS **Documentation Centre**, click the **Documentation** button on the SIMS **Home Page**.

In the Capita Software Support Portal, open the 7.194 SIMS Permissions Spreadsheet (https://support.capitasoftware.com/csm?id=kb_article_view&sysparm_article=KB0035803).

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 2020	7.194	6.194	Supported	Supported
Spring 2020	7.192	6.192	Supported	Supported

NOTE: FMS 6.194 has been tested against SQL Server 2012, 2014 and 2016.

Important Information about Self-Hosted SIMS Learning Gateway

Support for self-hosted SIMS Learning Gateway (SLG) ceased at the end of March 2020.

From 1 April 2020, schools can use their SLG installation for a limited period. However, all functionality will be removed on upgrade to the SIMS 2020 Autumn Release.

When you upgrade to the SIMS 2020 Autumn Release:

- all SLG and ADPS-related menu routes will no longer be available.
- all provisioning data stored by ADPS will be removed from your SIMS database but any accounts provisioned into Active Directory by ADPS will be unaffected.
- your SLG webparts will no longer be able to surface data from the SIMS database.

Capita ESS has provided a suite of apps to replace the functionality of SLG:

- SIMS Parent/Student
(<https://www.capita-sims.co.uk/products-and-services/sims-parent-app>)
- SIMS Teacher app
(<https://www.capita-sims.co.uk/products-and-services/sims-teacher-app>)
- SIMS ID (<https://www.capita-sims.co.uk/products-and-services/sims-id>)

To discuss moving to these apps, please contact your SIMS Account Manager. Alternatively, contact us (info@capita-sims.co.uk).

Supported SIMS Versions with PX Summer Release

The SIMS PX Agent should be upgraded to the PX 2020 Summer Release immediately after, or in conjunction with, upgrading to the SIMS 2020 Summer Release.

IMPORTANT NOTE: If you install the SIMS 2020 Summer Release (SIMS 7.194) and continue to run an older release of the PX Agent, this is not guaranteed to work and is therefore not supported.

Admissions

EP ES WP WS IN

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 16.0 and 17.0 of the ADT files. Previous versions are no longer imported.

Schools that are their own Admission Authority now export version 17.0 of the ASL file.

AMPARK

New Features

EP ES WP WS IN

Enhancements for the SIMS 2020 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 2020 Summer Release.

For more information, please refer to the *Assessment Manager and Performance Analysis Resource Kit* release note, which is available from the Capita Software Support Portal (https://support.capitasoftware.com/csm?id=kb_article_view&sysparm_article=KB0035124).

Attendance

New Features

EP ES WP WS IN

Recording the Y Code in Edit Marks

[Focus | Attendance | Edit Marks](#)

[Focus | Attendance | Exceptional Circumstances](#)

To ensure that attendance records are accurately maintained, particularly during the Covid-19 period, Y codes can now be recorded via Edit Marks. Previously, the Y code could be recorded only via Exceptional Circumstances.

A comment can now be recorded against a Y code in Edit Marks and Exceptional Circumstances.

New Features

ES WS IN

Introduction of Initial T Level Qualifications

[Tools | Academic Management | Course Manager | Maintain Course](#)

To support the new vocational T Level and T Level Transition programmes, when defining a new course, it is now possible to select two new levels from the **Level** drop-down list.

- T Level (Level 3)
- T Level Transition.

T Level programmes consist of:

- a T Level-specific, substantial Level 3 Technical qualification (the T Level aim)
- one or more occupational specialisms
- a T Level industry placement
- Level 2 Maths and English (where applicable).

The first three T Level programmes of study to be made available are:

- Digital Sector: Digital Production, Design and Development
- Construction Sector: Design, Surveying and Planning
- Education and Childcare Sector: Education.

T Level Transition programmes consist of a full-time study programme, usually lasting up to a standard academic year. They are aimed at students who are not yet ready to start a T Level programme but who have the potential to progress to a T Level programme in the future.

Addition of Work Placements in Course Details

Applicable to schools in England only

[Tools | Academic Management | Course Manager | Maintain Course](#)

[Tools | Academic Management | Course Manager | Maintain Course Classification](#)

To support the introduction of T Level programmes, and to enable schools to correctly report the funding requirements for these in the school census, the **Work Placements** panel is now available when defining a new course.

Work placements can be recorded for the following courses and QANs:

- 16 to 19 Study Programme Work Experience: QAN - ZWRKX001
- Industry Placement, Capacity and Delivery Fund (CDF): QAN - ZWRKX002
- T Level Industry Placement: QAN - ZWRKX003.

Once you have selected **Level** from the **Classification Codes** drop-down list on the **Classification Codeset** dialog, it is recommended that you select either the **Year 12 Non Qualification Course** or **Year 13 Non Qualification Course** for the classes and courses associated with recording the details of work placements/experience.

Additional Programme Information in the Maintain Post-16 Programmes of Study Page

Applicable to schools in England only

[Tools | Academic Management | Course Manager | Post-16 Programmes of Study](#)

To enable the recording of information relating to each programme type selected, additional columns have been provided on the **Maintain Post-16 Programmes of Study** page.

- Programme Type
- Start Date
- End Date
- Planned End Date
- Status

- Reason for Withdrawal
- Traineeship.

The new Post-16 Programmes of Study - Programmes detail report is available via [Routines](#) | [Statutory Returns](#) | [School Census](#).

Transferring a Student from one Programme of Study to Another

Applicable to schools in England only

[Tools](#) | [Academic Management](#) | [Course Manager](#) | [Post-16 Programmes of Study](#)

It is now possible to record a student's transfer from one Programme of Study to another part way through the academic year using the **Transfer Programme** button. A student can be enrolled on only one active Programme of Study at a time.

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 2020. QWADs are reported on in the Post 16 PLASC 2020 Return and have replaced the Learning Activity Reference.

CTF

New Features

EP ES WP WS IN

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 2020, CTF version 18.0 or 19.0 can be used for the import of CTF.

From 1 August 2020 onwards, CTF version 19.0 or 20.0 can be used for the import of CTF.

[Routines](#) | [Data Out](#) | [CTF](#) | [Export CTF](#)

Before 1 August 2020, CTF version 19.0 is used for the export of CTF.

From 1 August 2020 onwards, CTF version 20.0 will be used for the export of CTF.

Enhancement to the CTF Export Activity Log

Applicable to schools in England, Wales and Northern Ireland only

[Routines](#) | [Data Out](#) | [CTF](#) | [Export CTF](#)

When exporting a CTF following a change in URN and DfE number, the message in the Activity Log has been updated for clarity.

Enhancement to the CTF CML Export File

Applicable to schools in England only

[Routines](#) | [Data Out](#) | [CTF](#) | [Export CTF](#)

Leavers from the previous academic year are now included in a CML export file.

Inclusion of Pupils without a UPN in CML and CMJ Export Files

Applicable to Independent schools in England only

[Routines](#) | [Data Out](#) | [CTF](#) | [Export CTF](#)

Pupils without a UPN are now included in CML and CMJ export files.

DENI

New Features

EP ES

Key Dates for DENI 2020

[Routines](#) | [Statutory Returns](#) | [DENI](#) | [Create DENI Return](#)

[Routines](#) | [Statutory Returns](#) | [DENI](#) | [Create Leavers Return](#)

Main return date: 09/10/2020

Leavers return date: 13/11/2020

Leavers collection period: 11/10/2019 to 08/10/2020.

Validation Rules

The following SEN and Medical Conditions validations are now applied in the Leavers return.

Code	Validation Message
1031	Checks for pupil/students with an invalid SEN Status
1032	Checks for pupil/students with an invalid SEN Need
1033	Checks for pupil/students with SEN Need(s) and no SEN Status
1034	Checks for pupil/students with SEN stage but no recorded SEN Need
1092	Checks that pupil/students in a Special School have a SEN Stage between 1-5 and/or SEN Need
1110	Checks that pupil/students in a Special Unit have a SEN Status
1101	Checks that pupil/students in a Special Unit have a SEN Need
1130	Checks that pupil/students do not have both SEN Needs SPHL and MMHL
1131	Checks that pupil/students do not have more than one SEN Need of MLD, SLD and PMLD
1160	Checks whether a pupil/student has any invalid medical codes
1161	Checks whether a pupil/student has SEN Needs of both Blind (BL) and partially Sighted.

The following validations are also now applied in the Leavers return.

Code	Validation Message
1021	Checks whether a pupil/student's Home Language is English, Irish or Ulster Scots and if they have a Newcomer record) has been added.
1162	A warning message is now displayed when the percentage of pupil/students with the Leaving Code of Unknown is above 5%.

The following validations have been amended to include Level 3 equivalences.

Code	Validation Message
1084	Checks for pupil/students with no A levels or equivalent qualification recorded as leaving for Post A level course
1085	Checks for pupil/students with only 1 A level or equivalent qualification recorded as leaving for Post A level course

Validation numbers 1086 and 1145 have been removed from the Leavers return.

Display Order of the Main Census Summary Reports

The Main Census Summary reports now display by year group rather than age.

Examinations Organiser

ES **WS** **IN**

Candidate Statement of Results Report Provided in SIMS

[Tools](#) | [Examinations](#) | [Candidate Statement of Results Report](#)

The Candidate Statement of Results report is now accessible from Exams in SIMS. This version of the report displays a more comprehensive grade description.

Certification Broadsheet Report Provided in SIMS

[Tools](#) | [Examinations](#) | [Certification Broadsheet Report](#)

The Certification Broadsheet report is now accessible from Exams in SIMS. This version of the report displays a more comprehensive grade description.

Managing Reformed/Legacy GCSEs Last 5 Language Qualifications

Applicable to schools in England only

The remaining five Language qualifications are now graded at 9-1 instead of A*-G.

- Biblical Hebrew – 60331835 - F1Z (F1H is for Modern Hebrew Language)
- Gujarati – 60326232 - FKI
- Persian – 60326700 - F1P (F1P is for Persian Language)
- Portuguese - 6032482X - FKP
- Turkish - 60326918 - FKT.

Legacy GCSE A*-G results in these subjects will no longer count in the Performance Indicators from 2020.

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 Welsh Government's requirements for 2020.

The file contains five new data fields:

- Capped Points Score (interim) – Literacy (2019 onwards)
- Capped Points Score (interim) - Numeracy (2019 onwards)
- Capped Points Score (interim) – Science (2019 onwards)
- Capped Points Score (interim) – Welsh Baccalaureate Skills Challenge Certificate (2019 onwards)

- Size Contribution - used to calculate the Capped 9 and its sub-component measures.

This file is available from the [SIMS 7 Exams Information](#) page on the Capita Software Support Portal (https://support.capitasoftware.com/csm?id=kb_article_view&sysparm_article=KB0035892).

Additional Measures for 5+ and 7+ Entries including Equivalences Available in KS4 Summary Report

Applicable to schools in Northern Ireland only

[Tools](#) | [Examinations](#) | [PI Reports](#)

The following measures have been added to the KS4 Summary report:

- Number of students entered for 5+ GCSEs or equivalent
- Number of students entered for 7+ GCSEs or equivalent.

EDI and non-EDI results are included for all pass grades as well as U, Fail, X and Q. These measures are also reflected in the .XML output.

The following corresponding aspects have been created:

- PI Five Plus GCSE Equiv
- PI Seven Plus GCSE Equiv.

The row formerly included for [Entered for 5+ GCSEs](#) has been removed.

Amendments to Maths and English Discount Codes in the KS4 Detailed Report

Applicable to schools in Northern Ireland only

[Tools](#) | [Examinations](#) | [PI Reports](#)

The following discount codes are now used only in the Detailed report:

Maths

- 2210 Maths (General).

English

- 5030 English Language
- 5010 English Language & Literature.

These discount codes are included only in the following columns:

- Incl E&M A*-C
- English A*-C
- Maths A*-C.

Amendments to Maths and English Discount Codes in the KS4 Summary Report and the XML Output

Applicable to schools in Northern Ireland only

[Tools](#) | [Examinations](#) | [PI Reports](#)

Only the following discount codes are now used in the Summary report to determine the inclusion of English and/or Maths.

Maths

- 2210 - Maths (General) is counted for all rows in the Summary report.
- In the **Entered for GCSE English & GCSE Mathematics** and **Achieving A*-C GCSE in Mathematics** rows, the discount codes of 2210 - Maths (General) and 2230 - Advanced Subsidiary GCE in Pure Mathematics are counted.

English

- 5030 English Language
- 5010 English Language & Literature.

Annual Updates to the NIEFQAN Import Utility for 2020

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 2020.

FMS

For information on the new features, enhancements and fixes included in FMS 6.194, please refer to the *FMS 6.194* Release Note.

Lesson Monitor

New Features

ES **WS** **IN**

Recording the Y Code in Edit Marks

[Focus](#) | [Lesson Monitor](#) | [Edit Marks](#)

[Focus](#) | [Lesson Monitor](#) | [Exceptional Circumstances](#)

To ensure that attendance records are accurately maintained, particularly during the Covid-19 period, Y codes can now be recorded via Edit Marks. Previously, the Y code could be recorded only via Exceptional Circumstances.

A comment can now be recorded against a Y code in Edit Marks and Exceptional Circumstances.

Options Online

ES WS IN

Options Online does not form part of the SIMS 2020 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/Notifications/>).

Post 16 PLASC 2020 Return

New Features

WP WS

Key Dates for the Post 16 PLASC Return

[Routines](#) | [Statutory Returns](#) | [Post 16 PLASC](#)

Survey reference date is 31/07/2020

Collection period from 01/09/2019 to 31/08/2020.

New Data Items

The QWAD Discount Code data item is collected for the first time. It is also displayed on the detail report.

Reporting

No new or updated predefined reports are delivered as part of the SIMS 2020 Summer Release, meaning the most recent report definition file is **PreDefined_Reports_v7190.RptDef**. This file was delivered as part of the SIMS 2019 Autumn Release. If you did not import this file in Autumn 2019 or Spring 2020, you can still do so once you have upgraded to Summer 2020. To import the file, select **Reports | Import**, then navigate to and select **PreDefined_Reports_v7190.RptDef** (typically found in **C:\Program Files (x86)\SIMS\SIMS .net**). Once imported, the reports are available to all users with the appropriate permissions.

If you imported this file after upgrading to the Autumn 2019 or Spring 2020 release, there is no need to import it again.

New Features

EP ES WP WS IN

Enhancements to Student List Reports

[Reports | Student List | General Student List](#)

[Reports | Student List | Class List](#)

[Reports | Student List | Registration Group List](#)

The following behaviour columns can now be added to a Student List Report via **Standard | Conduct**.

- Achievements Points
- Behaviour Points
- Net Points
- No. of Detentions Recorded
- No. of Report Cards
- No. of Initiatives.

In line with current GDPR legislation, when creating a Student List report, gender and date of birth information is no longer displayed by default in the report output. These fields can be applied manually, if required.

Enhancements to the Reporting Dictionary

Applicable to Maintained schools in England only

[Reports | Design Report](#)

[Routines | Data Out | Person Data Output](#)

Up to three reasons for an exclusion may be reported in the School Census Spring 2021 return. In anticipation, the **Reason 2** and **Reason 3** fields have been added to the **Exclusion** sub-report. These fields have also been added to the Person Data Output. The existing **Reason** has been renamed **Reason 1**.

School Census Autumn 2020 Return

New Features

EP ES

Key Dates for the School Census Autumn 2020 Return

[Routines](#) | [Statutory Return](#) | [School Census](#)

Census Date: 01/10/2020

Termly attendance collected from 13/04/2020 to 31/07/2020

Exclusions collected from 01/01/2020 to 31/07/2020. Exclusions are collected for the Spring and Summer terms.

Free School Meals collected from 22/05/2020 to 01/10/2020

Learning Aims collected from 01/08/2019 to 01/10/2020.

Exclusions Information Recorded from September 2020 for Collection in the School Census Spring 2020 Return

Applicable to Primary, Secondary and All-Through schools, and Pupil Referral Units only

[Focus](#) | [Pupil \(or Student\)](#) | [Exclusions](#)

Up to three reasons for an exclusion may be reported in the School Census Spring 2021 return. To cater for this, additional drop-down fields have been provided for **Exclusion Reason 2** and **Exclusion Reason 3** when recording an exclusion. The existing **Exclusion Reason** has been renamed **Exclusion Reason 1**.

The following reasons for exclusion have also been added:

- Use or threat of use of an offensive weapon or prohibited item
- Abuse against sexual orientation and gender identity
- Abuse relating to disability
- Inappropriate use of social media or online technology.

Changes to the Update Prior Attainment Utility

Applicable to Secondary schools, All-Through schools and Pupil Referral Units only

[Tools](#) | [Statutory Return Tools](#) | [Update Prior Attainment](#)

The calculation for English Prior Attainment has changed to include English Language GCSE results only (not English Literature) and the column name has been changed to **English Lang Prior Attainment**.

The **English Highest Grade** column heading has changed to **English Lang/Lit Highest Grade** because this grade includes both English Language and Literature GCSE results.

The new ***English Lang Highest Grade** column displays English Language GCSE results only. This item is not collected in the school census but is included for completeness.

The display order of the following columns has been changed:

- *English Lang Highest Grade
- English Lang Prior Attainment
- English Lang/Lit Highest Grade
- English Funding Exemption.

Post-16 Information Collected in this Return

Applicable to Secondary schools, All-Through schools and Pupil Referral Units only

[Tools](#) | [Academic Management](#) | [Course Manager](#) | [Post-16 Programmes of Study](#)

Additional data items are now collected for the new programme types of **T Level**, **T Level Transition** and **Study Programme**.

If the **Programme Type** is set to **T Level**, the **T Level Planned hours** figure is calculated from the **Qual Hours** and **Non-Qual Hrs** columns. The **T Level Planned hours** figure for T Level programmes is reported at student level.

The following additional data items are now collected in the Autumn Census for Post-16 programmes.

- Programme Type
- Programme Start Date

- Programme End Date
- Programme Planned End Date
- Programme Status
- Programme Reason for Withdrawal
- Programme Traineeship.

The new Post-16 Programmes of Study - Programmes report is also available from the [Detail Report](#) button on the [Census Return Details](#) page.

School Workforce Annual Census

WP **WS**

School Workforce Annual Census Key Dates

[Routines](#) | [Statutory Returns](#) | [School Workforce Annual Census](#)

Census Date: 03/11/2020.

New Data Items Collected from Personnel

[Focus](#) | [Person](#) | [Staff – Employment Details tab](#)

Three additional data items from Personnel are now collected in the SWAC Return.

FTE

The Full Time Equivalent can be amended for staff as follows:

- FTE = 1 for a person working full time (37 hours)
- FTE = 0.5 for a person working half the hours of a full-time post (18.5 hours).

Status

A new drop-down list enables you to identify the reason why an employee is not working at the school on Census day, if required.

3rd Party Staff

A new check box enables you to identify members of staff who are not employed by the school.

Provision of Additional Panels in SWAC

[Routines](#) | [Statutory Return](#) | [School Workforce Annual Census](#)

The following additional panels have been provided in readiness for the 2021 SWAC Return:

- Recruitment
- Retention
- Supply Staff.

Data will not be collected for these areas in 2020.

New Detail Reports

The following detail reports have been provided in readiness for the 2021 SWAC Return via the [Detail Report](#) drop-down list:

- Staff Recruitment & Retention Details
- Supply Staff Details.

Data is not collected for Recruitment, Retention and Supply Staff until 2021 so the output of these reports is not relevant for 2020.

Enhancements to the SWAC Role Lookup

[Tools](#) | [Lookups](#) | [Maintain](#)

The following additional SWAC roles have been provided:

- MS - Midday Supervisor
- AD - Advisory Staff
- TD - Teachers of the Deaf
- TV - Teachers of the Visually Impaired
- SP - SEN Co-ordinator (primary role).

The descriptions for the following existing SWAC roles have amended:

- IT - ICT Staff
- AO - Administration Staff
- QT - Qualified Teacher
- TA - Teacher Assistant/Aide employed in the classroom
- SC - SEN Co-ordinator (additional role).

School Workforce Census

New Features

EP ES

Key Dates for the School Workforce Census

[Routines](#) | [Statutory Returns](#) | [School Workforce Census](#)

Census date: 05/11/2020

Absence collected from 01/09/2019 to 31/08/2020

Continuous contracts collected from 01/09/2019 to 05/11/2020.

New Staff Category – Leadership Non-Teacher

A separate category is now used to determine which data items are reported for Leadership Non-Teacher staff (**SWC Post** of **Leadership - Non Teacher**). Staff with an **SWC Post** of **Leadership – Non Teacher** are no longer included in the **Other Support Staff** category.

The staff category **Leadership Non-Teachers** has been included in the report criteria header of a number of the SWC reports.

Changes to Data Items Collected for the Other Contracted Support Staff Category

The **Additional Payment** category and the **Additional Payment Amount** are no longer collected for Other Support Staff (**SWC Post** of **OSP**).

QTS, QTLS, EYTS are now collected for Other Contracted Support Staff who have an **SWC Post** of **AVT** (Advisory Teachers).

SIMS Core

New Features

EP ES WP WS IN

Enhancements to Census Collection Data for On-Roll Pupil/Students Previously Recorded as Guest

[Routines](#) | [Pupil \(or Student\)](#) | [Change Enrolment Status](#)

[Focus](#) | [Pupil \(or Student\)](#) | [Pupil \(or Student\) Details - Registration panel](#)

Pupil/students who were re-admitted and given a status of on roll, having held a status of **Guest pupil** when they originally became a leaver, are now correctly included in statutory return collection data.

Admission and leaver records will be added to the renamed **Enrolment Status History** dialog (previously **Enrolment Status Changes**), providing a complete view of a pupil/student's enrolment status (history and changes). This dialog is accessed by clicking the **Browser** button adjacent to the **Enrolment Status** field in the **Registration** panel of the pupil/student record.

Retention of Attendance Data for Guest Pupil/Students Previously Recorded as On Roll

[Focus](#) | [Pupil \(or Student\)](#) | [Pupil \(or Student\) Details](#)

Attendance data is now retained for pupil/students who were previously on roll at a school and whose enrolment status has been changed to **Guest pupil**. The warning message displayed when the enrolment status is changed from registered to **Guest pupil** has been updated.



Exclusions Information Recorded from September 2020 for Collection in the School Census Spring 2020 Return

Applicable to Primary, Secondary and All-Through schools, and Pupil Referral Units in England only

Focus | Pupil (or Student) | Exclusions

Up to three reasons for an exclusion may be reported in the School Census Spring 2021 return. To cater for this, additional drop-down fields have been provided for **Exclusion Reason 2** and **Exclusion Reason 3** when recording an exclusion. The existing **Exclusion Reason** has been renamed **Exclusion Reason 1**.

The following reasons for exclusion have also been added:

- Use or threat of use of an offensive weapon or prohibited item
- Abuse against sexual orientation and gender identity
- Abuse relating to disability
- Inappropriate use of social media or online technology.

Free School Meal Entitlement Under Transitional Protection Measures

Applicable to schools in Wales only

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

The **Effective Date** field in the **Dietary** panel provides the date from which unprocessed school meals are charged at zero. This field works in conjunction with the **FSM Transitional Protection** check box. Selecting this check box ensures that unprocessed meals are represented with a zero charge.

To prevent any further impact on Dinner Money, the check box cannot be deselected if it has been selected previously. Additionally, the **Effective Date** defaults to today's date and cannot be edited.

Enhancement to the Web Address Validation XML File

Applicable to schools in Northern Ireland only

To enable the mapping of geo data and to draw graphics, the X and Y address co-ordinates are now included in the Web Address Validation XML file if the pupil/student's UPRN is recorded.

Enhancements to Bulk Update

Applicable to schools in Northern Ireland only

Routines | Pupil (or Student) | Bulk Update

It is now possible to bulk update the start and end dates for pupil/student eligibility for free school meals. This process assists in meeting the DENI requirement to end eligibility at the start or end of an academic year.

The **Effective Date** must first be specified in the **Student Population** section of the **Bulk Update** panel before selecting **Eligible for Free Meals** from the **Data Item** drop-down list. Two new check boxes are then displayed:

- If you select the **End Existing FSM Records** check box and click the **Search** button, the pupil/students who have an active FSM eligibility record on the effective date are displayed in the **Members** table. To end their FSM eligibility as of the effective date, deselect the required pupil/student(s) in the **Free School Meals** column and click the **Save** button.
- If you select the **Start New FSM Records** check box and click the **Search** button, the pupil/students who do not currently have an FSM eligibility record on the effective date are displayed in the **Members** table. To start their FSM eligibility as of the effective date, select the required pupil/students in the **Free School Meals** column and click the **Save** button. An open-ended FSM eligibility record is created for the selected pupil/students.

Updates to Pupil/Student Registration

Applicable to schools in Northern Ireland only

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

- The **Reason for Dual Registration** field is now available in the **Change Enrolment Status** panel of the **Pupil (or Student) Details** page. This field continues to be displayed in the **Registration Panel** of this page. When the enrolment status of a pupil/student is changed, the Reason for Dual Registration field is updated.
- The **Educated off site but not in a school** check box is no longer visible in the **Registration** panel of the **Pupil (or Student) Details** page by default.
- If required, it is now possible to re-activate the **Educated off site but not in a school** check box via **Tools | Setups | School Options**.

Enhancements to Lookups for the DENI Leavers Return

Applicable to schools in Northern Ireland only

Tools | Lookups | Maintain

To support the DENI Leavers Return 2020, the following values in the **Reason for Leaving (This School)** lookup have been made inactive:

- FE-GB:Tchr Trng
- FE-non UK:Tchr Trg
- FE-unk:Tchr Trng.

For clarity, the descriptions of other lookup values have been amended.

Enhancements to Lookups for School Merge

Applicable to schools in Northern Ireland only

The School Merge Utility now compares the lookups and lookup values of the source and destination databases. It then inserts into the destination database any lookups and lookup values that are missing.

Lookups for the following data areas only are migrated to the merged database:

- Agents including Agencies
- Applicants
- Attendance Summary
- Document
- Contacts
- School
- SEN
- Staff
- Students
- User Owned.

SIMS ID

EP ES WP WS IN

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 2020 Summer Release. For more information, please visit the SIMS ID product page on the Capita SIMS website (<http://www.capita-sims.co.uk/simsid>).

SIMS Parent and SIMS Parent Lite

EP ES WP WS IN

SIMS Parent and SIMS Parent Lite do not form part of the SIMS 2020 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

EP ES WP WS IN

SIMS Pay does not form part of the SIMS 2020 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.capita-cs.co.uk>).

SIMS Services Manager

EP ES WP WS IN

The SIMS 2020 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 the *Useful Documents and Links* section of the *SIMS 7 Release Information* page on the Capita Software Support Portal (https://support.capitasoftware.com/csm?id=kb_article_view&sysparm_article=KB0035066).

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 the *Useful Documents and Links* section of the *SIMS 7 Release Information* page on the Capita Software Support Portal (https://support.capitasoftware.com/csm?id=kb_article_view&sysparm_article=KB0035066).

Teacher app

EP ES WP WS IN

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 2020 Summer Release (SIMS 7.194)
- SIMS 2020 Spring Release (SIMS 7.192).

Please note that the Teacher app does not form part of the SIMS 2020 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.