

The SIMS logo consists of the letters "SIMS" in a bold, white, sans-serif font, centered within a white square border. The background of the entire slide is a dark space filled with numerous bright orange and red light trails that form a large, stylized, glowing 'U' shape, resembling a comet or a high-speed trajectory.

SIMS

Click here to
sign up for
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Product updates,
news, forums and
events.

SIMS has been upgraded

Welcome to the SIMS 2021 Spring Release

SIMS 7.198 - Independent

This information is also available from
the **Documentation Centre**, which is
accessed by clicking the **Documentation**
button on the **SIMS Home Page**.

What's new?

SIMS release notes

How to Use this Section



Click the Book icon to activate a link that takes you directly to the relevant handbook.



Click the Video Camera icon to preview the associated functionality.

Please note that not all features have links.


Admissions




- For schools with the Full Own Admissions Authority licence, to align with new legislation, all screen labels that reference **Tier 4** throughout SIMS have changed to **Study Visa**. This change excludes reports and items in the reporting dictionary; these areas will be updated in a future release.
- The following additional fields can now be imported by an Application Import File (AIF): **Use For Fees Financial PDF Documents, E-mail Bills, Fees Status, Payment Type, Fees % Breakdown, Extra % Breakdown, AUDDIS Mandate Indicator, Pupil Reference, Payer Ref and Billing Name**.

AMPARK

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 2021 Spring Release.

Assessment

-  It is now possible for a class teacher to add User Defined Fields (UDFs) to an Assessment marksheet as Additional Student Columns. It is also possible for an Assessment Co-ordinator to add UDFs to a template as Additional Student Information columns.

-  The SIMS dictionary has been updated with approximately 35,000 entries from the dictionary of names provided by the Office for National Statistics (ONS). When recording comments in Assessment marksheets, any names recorded in the dictionary will not be flagged as potential misspellings. We would like to take this opportunity to remind you of the existing functionality in SIMS that enables schools to add names recorded in their SIMS system to the SIMS dictionary. This feature can be accessed via **Tools | Performance | Profiles | Add Names to Dictionary**. Running this process adds to the dictionary all surnames, middle names and forenames (both legal and preferred), for all pupils, applicants and staff recorded in SIMS. We will continue to update the SIMS dictionary as part of future releases.
-  For schools in England, additional resources have been provided for schools that choose to use the revised EYFS profiles. These resources are available in the AMPA\England Primary (and Middle Deemed Primary) folder and are named EYFS Revised Profile Wizard 2021.xml and EYFS Revised Profile Template 2021.xml. Only schools that have registered with the DfE to be early adopters should use these resources. All other schools must continue to use the updated legacy resources.
-  For schools in England, a revised resource file has been provided for early adopters using the Programme of Study Revised EYFS framework to import. Only schools that have registered with the DfE as early adopters should use the new framework from 1 September 2021. For more information, please refer to the release note that accompanies this release.

Attendance

For schools in Wales:

- Two Attendance codes have been provided, enabling schools to record further details of COVID-19-related absences from 02/11/2020 to 31/08/2021.
 - The [code indicates remote learning due to COVID-19 and is mapped to the main code of X = Non compulsory school age absence.
 - The ; code indicates illness due to COVID-19 and is mapped to the main code of I = Illness.

For all other schools:

- In consultation with the DfE, a range of subcodes have been introduced for session marks **I** (Illness) and **X** (Non-compulsory school age or COVID-19 related) to enable schools to record additional information regarding a pupil/student's absence.
 - To record a subcode for a single pupil/student, right-click a cell where an I or X mark has been recorded and select **Enter Subcode** from the pop-up menu.
 - To record subcodes for multiple pupil/students, highlight the required I or X marks, right-click one of the highlighted cells and select **Enter Subcode** from the pop-up menu. Please note that highlighted cells must include only I marks or only X marks; it is not possible to apply subcodes in bulk where a combination of I and X marks have been highlighted. This feature works in a similar way to recording comments and minutes late for multiple pupil/students.

For more information, please refer to the release note that accompanies this release.

Course Manager

- For pupils who are studying in Year Taught In Yr 10 or 12 on a two-year course, their membership of the course is created by running the Update Course Memberships routine. However, in their first year of the course (academic year 2020/2021), the Planned End Date will be set to 31/07/2022 by default because the Class End Date for the second year of the course is not known at the time that the course membership is created. The Actual End Date is displayed with the same date as the future Planned End Date.
In the second year of the course, e.g. when pupils are in Yr 11 or 13 in the academic Year 2021/2022, after running Update Course Memberships, the Planned End Date and the Actual End Date now display the future class end date.
- Updated criteria in the **Other Courses** column now ensures that all courses that are active at some point during the selected academic year, regardless of their duration, are displayed.

Home Page

- When configuring the **Attendance Summary** widget on the SIMS **Home Page**, an additional **Cycle** named **Current Term to Date** has been provided to enable schools to view information from the start of the current school term to today's date.
- When configuring the **Conduct Summary** widget on the SIMS **Home Page**, an additional **Cycle** named **Current Term to Date** has been provided to enable schools to view information from the start of the current school term to today's date.

Lesson Monitor

For schools in Wales:

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 - The ; code indicates illness due to COVID-19 and is mapped to the main code of I = Illness.

For all other schools:

- In consultation with the DfE, a range of subcodes have been introduced for session marks **I** (Illness) and **X** (Non-compulsory school age or COVID-19 related) to enable schools to record additional information regarding a pupil/student's absence.
 - To record a subcode for a single pupil/student, right-click a cell where an I or X mark has been recorded and select **Enter Subcode** from the pop-up menu.
 - To record subcodes for multiple pupil/students, highlight the required I or X marks, right-click one of the highlighted cells and select **Enter Subcode** from the pop-up menu. Please note that highlighted cells must include only I marks or only X marks; it is not possible to apply subcodes in bulk where a combination of I and X marks have been highlighted. This feature works in a similar way to recording comments and minutes late for multiple pupil/students.


For more information, please refer to the release note that accompanies this release.

Profiles


The SIMS dictionary has been updated with approximately 35,000 entries from the dictionary of names provided by the Office for National Statistics (ONS). When recording comments in Profiles, any names recorded in the dictionary will not be flagged as potential misspellings. We would like to take this opportunity to remind you of the existing functionality in SIMS that enables schools to add names recorded in their SIMS system to the SIMS dictionary. This feature can be accessed via **Tools | Performance | Profiles | Add Names to Dictionary**. Running this process adds to the dictionary all surnames, middle names and forenames (both legal and preferred), for all pupils, applicants and staff recorded in SIMS. We will continue to update the SIMS dictionary as part of future releases.

Reporting


For schools in Wales:

-  The selected staff member's **National Identity** is now displayed in the **Personal Details** section of the report output of the Person Data Output (PDO) report.

For all other schools:





-  The SEF B2.11 - More Able Learners report replaces the SEF B2.11 - Gifted and Talented Learners pre-defined report. The column headings in the report now refer to **More Able**.

For schools that have set up the original SEF B2.11 – Gifted and Talented report to run as a scheduled report or an alert, these links will need to be re-established with the new SEF B2.11 - More Able Learners report.

-  To support the introduction of Attendance subcodes, the following items have been added to the Attendance marks sub-report:
 - Subcode
 - Subcode Description.



SIMS Core

-  It is now possible to access the support portal from within SIMS via **Tools | Customer Support Portal**. This replaces the link to My Account.
-  When preparing to create a CTF file for export, an * is now appended to a pupil's **UPN** in the **Students** panel if they have a **Reason for Leaving of Deceased** recorded in the **School History** panel of the pupil record. Once the export has completed, an * is now appended to their **UPN** in the **Exception Log** panel. An * is not appended to the **UPN** tag in the exported CTF file.
Under these circumstances, the following message is displayed on export:
The list of pupils you are about to export contain a deceased person(s), these are indicated with an * next to the UPN. Do you wish to proceed with the export?
-  The **Other** lookup value in the **Exclusion Reason** lookup type has been set to inactive because from September 2020 onwards, it should not be recorded.
-  For schools with the Full Own Admissions Authority licence, to align with new legislation, all screen labels that reference **Tier 4** throughout SIMS have changed to **Study Visa**. This change excludes reports and items in the reporting dictionary; these areas will be updated in a future release.

Where to find more information

We publish highlights of the changes and benefits of each release on our blog (<http://www.capita-sims.co.uk/releaseblogindependent>).

The [SIMS Documentation Centre](#) provides access to all the documentation, e.g. handbooks, quick reference sheets, reporting catalogue, yearbooks, etc. It can be accessed by clicking the Documentation button on the SIMS Home Page.

Online help can be accessed by pressing F1 or by clicking the applicable Help button in SIMS.

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