SIMS

SIMS has been upgraded

Welcome to the SIMS 2021 Spring Release

SIMS 7.198
Primary Schools in England

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

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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.

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.

- The EYFS Baseline Assessment Templates for Durham University's Centre for Evaluation and Monitoring (CEM), Early Excellence (EE) and National Foundation for Educational Research (NFER) have been removed from the `AMPA` folders. These resources will not be delivered in future because they are no longer statutory. Schools must now use the statutory DfE online baseline assessment process. For more information, please refer to the release note that accompanies this release.

- 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.

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- 📕 The DfE and the Standards and Testing Agency (STA) announced in January 2021 that due to the ongoing COVID-19 situation, the Key Stage 1 (KS1) and Key Stage 2 (KS2) National Curriculum Assessments and Tests could not continue as intended. The following assessments, scheduled between April and July 2021, have been cancelled:
    - KS1 Teacher Assessments and Tests
    - KS2 Teacher Assessments and Tests
    - Phonics Screening Check
    - All other statutory trialling.

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

- 📕 Due to the cancellation of the Summer 2020 collection for the Year 1 Phonics Check because of COVID-19, an additional CTF export type named **Phonics Test Results (for Autumn Term 2020 Screening Check only)** was provided as part of the SIMS 2020 Autumn Release to enable schools to make the return for the new Year 1 Phonics Check in Autumn 2020. For the SIMS 2021 Spring Release, this has been renamed **Phonics Test Results (For Summer Term 2021 Retake Screening Check only)**. For more information, please refer to the release note that accompanies this release.

- 📕 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 England, 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's absence.

- To record a subcode for a single pupil, 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 pupils, 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 pupils.

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

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.

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.

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Reporting

- 📕 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.

School Census Summer 2021 Return (England) 📕

- Includes the functionality to produce the School Census Summer 2021 Return.

- If pupils in years R, 1 and 2 are not attending school on the School Census Summer 2021 census day, schools can now select an alternative date for reporting of school dinners taken between 05/04/2021 and 31/07/2021. In Special schools, this is also applicable to pupils aged between 4 and 6 who are not following the National Curriculum Year X, and pupils born between 1 September 2013 and 31 August 2016 inclusive.

- 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.

- With the exception of Nursery schools, for schools that use Attendance, data is collected on <u>all</u> categories of school attendance, rather than just absence. For schools that do not use Attendance, it is possible to record the following information:
  - Total number of sessions attending approved educational activity (**T AEA Sessions**) This information was also collected in the School Census Spring 2021 Return

  - Total number of sessions unable to attend due to exceptional circumstances (**T Excep Sessions**) This information was also collected in the School Census Spring 2021 Return
  - Total number of sessions unable to attend due to Coronavirus (**T Corona Sessions**).

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 <u>not</u> 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.

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Where to find more information

It is strongly recommended that you read the *SIMS Release Download Links and Product Information* on the support portal. The Notification provides additional, up-to-date information about the release.

Release notes from previous releases are also available on the support portal.

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.

Use the search facility to find additional supporting documentation. Online help can be accessed by pressing F1 or by clicking the applicable Help button in SIMS.

Capita SIMS, Franklin Court, Priory Business Park,
Cardington, Bedford, MK44 3JZ