



SIMS 2019 Autumn Release Note

7.190 Combined Edition - version 1.0

Welcome to the SIMS 2019 Autumn Release	2	Reporting	15
Important Information for Windows 8 and Windows Server 2012 Users	2	School Census Spring 2020 Return	15
Release Notes	3	School Level Annual School Census (SLASC) 2020 Return	16
Backing up SIMS and FMS	3	School Workforce Annual Census	16
Important Information Regarding the Upgrade of SIMS and Discover	3	SIMS Core	17
Important Information Regarding SIMS Documentation	4	SIMS ID	17
Where to Find More Information?	5	SIMS Parent and SIMS Parent Lite	18
Permissions	6	SIMS Pay	18
Compatibility between One and SIMS	6	SIMS Services Manager	18
Version Support for FMS	8	Teacher app	18
SLG Compatibility	8		
Supported SIMS Versions with SLG Autumn Release	8		
Supported SIMS Versions with PX Autumn Release	9		
Admissions	9		
AMPARK	9		
Assessment	9		
Attendance	10		
Catholic Education Services (CES) 2020 Return	11		
Cover	11		
CTF	11		
Examinations Organiser	11		
FMS	11		
Independent Schools Council (ISC) 2020 Return	12		
Lesson Monitor	13		
Nova-T6	13		
Options Online	14		
Personnel	14		
Profiles	14		
Pupil Level Annual School Census (PLASC) 2020 Return	14		

Welcome to the SIMS 2019 Autumn 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 Spring 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, 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.

-  *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.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.

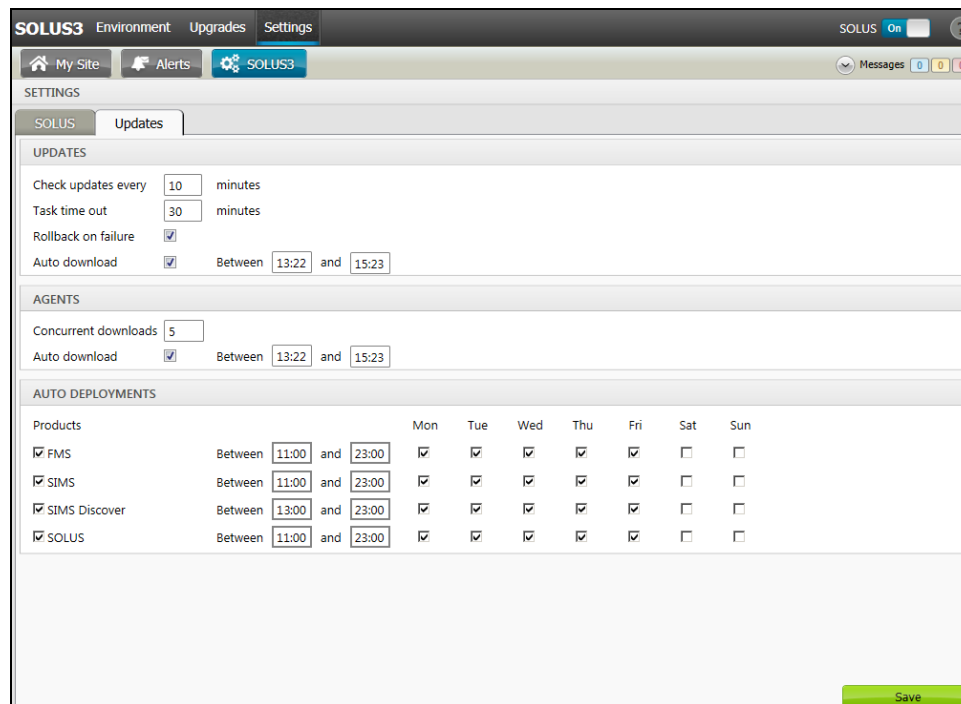
IMPORTANT NOTE: Backups are no longer zipped, because of the number of issues caused by zipping backup files. Recent operating systems now allow the use of compressed folders, which are recommended for automatically compressing backups. Please refer to your operating system documentation for instructions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

Important Information Regarding the Upgrade of SIMS and Discover

IMPORTANT NOTE: You must upgrade to the SIMS 2019 Autumn 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 with the following configurations:

- UPDATES:**
 - Check updates every: 10 minutes
 - Task time out: 30 minutes
 - Rollback on failure:
 - Auto download: Between 13:22 and 15:23
- AGENTS:**
 - Concurrent downloads: 5
 - Auto download: Between 13:22 and 15:23
- AUTO DEPLOYMENTS:**

Products	Between	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](#). 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 Autumn Release without logging into SIMS, the [Documentation Centre](#) is accessible using a web link (<http://simspublications.com/235689/index.html>).

Help files are delivered to the [\Program Files\SIMS\SIMS .net](#) folder on each SIMS workstation.



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.
2. 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...

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 7.190, 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 **7.190 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

As part of the SIMS 2019 Autumn Release, we have undertaken full integration testing of both B2B:Student and B2B:Personnel. The following two tables show the version(s) of One and SIMS that have also been through a process of integration testing for each of the B2B products.

B2B:Student

		One Release Version	
		One Summer 2019 Release (3.69)	One Autumn 2019 Release (3.70)
SIMS Release Version	SIMS 2019 Summer Release (SIMS 7.188) Running B2B:Student v4 Phase 1	x	x
	SIMS 2019 Summer Release (SIMS 7.188) Running B2B:Student v4 Phase 2	✓	✓
	SIMS 2019 Autumn Release (SIMS 7.190) Running B2B:Student v4 Phase 1	x	x
	SIMS 2019 Autumn Release (SIMS 7.190) Running B2B:Student v4 Phase 2	✓	✓

B2B:Personnel

		One Release version	
		One Summer 2019 Release (3.69)	One Autumn 2019 Release (3.70)
SIMS Release Version	SIMS 2019 Summer Release (SIMS 7.188) without the Salary Range patch	✓	x
	SIMS 2019 Summer Release (SIMS 7.188) with the Salary Range patch	✓	✓
	SIMS 2019 Autumn Release (SIMS 7.190) without the Salary Range patch	✓	x
	SIMS 2019 Autumn Release (SIMS 7.190) with the Salary Range patch	✓	✓

There are various elements of functionality in One and SIMS that require compatibility between the two solutions. The following table provides information on the version(s) of schemas that are supported in release versions of One and SIMS, and therefore indicate version and release compatibility.

		One Release version	
		3.69 (Summer 2019)	3.70 (Autumn 2019)
SIMS Component	B2B:Student	v1.1	v1.1
	B2B:Personnel	v1.1	v1.1
	ATF	v15.0	v16.0
	CTF	v18 (for import) v19 (for import/export)	v18 (for import) v19 (for import/export)
	School Census	SC 2019/2020	SC 2019/2020
	PLASC	PLASC 2019	PLASC 2020
	ASL	v16.0	v16.0
	AMPARK	SIMS 7.186	SIMS 7.186
	ADT	v16.0	v16.0

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
Autumn 2019	7.190	6.190	Supported	Supported
Summer 2019	7.188	6.188	Supported	Supported
Spring 2019	7.186	6.186	Not supported	Supported

NOTE: FMS 6.190 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 Autumn Release

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

- SIMS 2019 Autumn Release (SIMS 7.190)
- SIMS 2019 Summer Release (SIMS 7.188).

IMPORTANT NOTE: If you install the SIMS 2019 Autumn Release (SIMS 7.190) 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 Autumn Release

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

IMPORTANT NOTE: If you install the SIMS 2019 Autumn Release (SIMS 7.190) 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



Updated ATF Version Number

Applicable to Maintained schools in England only

[Routines](#) | [Admission](#) | [Import ATF File](#)

It is now possible to import version 15.0 or 16.0 ATF files only.

AMPARK

New Features



Enhancements for the SIMS 2019 Autumn 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 Autumn 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



Retention of the Show/Hide Options Selected in Programme of Study Tracking Entry

[Schools in England](#)

[Schools in Wales](#)

Applicable to schools in England and Wales only

[Focus](#) | [Assessment](#) | [Programme of Study Tracking Entry](#)

The options selected from the **Show/Hide** drop-down menu in Programme of Study Tracking Entry are now retained throughout your SIMS session and the next time you log in to SIMS.

Selecting an Outcome Type in the Formative Progress Report

[Schools in England](#)

[Schools in Wales](#)

Applicable to schools in England and Wales only

[Focus](#) | [Assessment](#) | [Programme of Study Tracking Entry](#)

[Focus](#) | [Assessment](#) | [Programme of Study Analysis](#) | [Formative Progress](#)

The Formative Progress report now enables you to select the analysis **Outcome Type**, either as a **Count** or a **Percentage of Students**.

Viewing Previous Years Attainment in Programme of Study Tracking Entry



Applicable to schools in England only

[Focus](#) | [Assessment](#) | [Programme of Study Tracking Entry](#)

It is now possible to display as additional columns in Programme of Study Tracking Entry a pupil/student's **Previous Years Attainment** for a subject by selecting the option from the **Show/Hide** drop-down menu. This option is available where the **NC Year** selected is **Year 1** through to **Year 6**.

Consolidating Subject Results in the Summative Report Outputs



Applicable to schools in England only

[Focus](#) | [Assessment](#) | [Programme of Study Analysis](#) | [Summative Attainment](#)
[Focus](#) | [Assessment](#) | [Programme of Study Analysis](#) | [Summative Progress](#)

The Summative Attainment and Summative Progress reports now enable you to view the results for Reading, Writing and Maths as columns in a single report by selecting the **Core Report** check box in **Selection Parameters**. This function is available where the **Year** selected is **Year 1** through to **Year 6**.

Attendance

New Features



Additional Attendance Setup Options

[Tools](#) | [Setups](#) | [Attendance Setup](#) | [Module Setup](#)

When selecting **Defaults for Specific Routines** for **Student Identification Columns**, the following new options are available:

- **Include Middle Name** - middle name is included in the **Name** column in Attendance/Lesson Monitor grids where pupil/student names are listed.

- **Active User Defined Fields** - one option only can be selected from a list of all active pupil/student/applicant user defined fields. The selected option is then displayed as an identification column in Attendance/Lesson Monitor grids where pupil/student names are listed.

The following new options are available when selecting the required defaults for pupil/student **Display of Names**:

- **Show Forename before Surname**
- **Include Middle Name.**

The following new options are available when selecting the required defaults for **Order of names in registration group list**:

- **Order names by Preferred Surname**
- **Order names by Legal Surname**
- **Order names by Preferred Forename**
- **Order names by Legal Forename.**

School Holidays and Closures Planner

Applicable to schools in Northern Ireland only

[Reports](#) | [Attendance \(or Lesson Monitor\)](#) | [Group Reports](#) | [School Holidays and Closures Planner](#)

This new report provides details of teaching and school closure days for a specified academic year.

Fixes

This release includes fixes in the following areas:

- Where only AM sessions or PM sessions are set for the academic year, column headings for all days of the school week are now displayed correctly (via **Focus | Attendance | Display Marks**).



- For schools in Northern Ireland, the **Unable to create Export File, String or Binary Data would be Truncated** error no longer occurs when running the Closing School report (via [Reports | Attendance | Group Reports | Closing School Report](#)).

Catholic Education Services (CES) 2020 Return

Applicable to Catholic schools in England and Wales only

New Features

EP ES WP WS IN

CES Census 2020 Key Dates

[Routines](#) | [Statutory Returns](#) | [Schools CES Census](#)

The dates are different for English and Welsh schools:

- In England, the census date is Thursday 16 January 2020
- In Wales, the census date is Tuesday 14 January 2020.

Changes to Detail Reports

The Support Staff Detail report now includes a section in the report header, which displays the **Support Posts included (as at Census Date)**.

In the Pupil/Student Detail report, cells with missing information are now highlighted in red and any discrepancies are highlighted in yellow.

CES Census Summary Report

To enable you to check whether the census file has been received and logged by the CES Census team, a link to the census website has been added to the bottom of the CES Census Summary report.

Changes to CES Census Lookups

[Tools](#) | [Statutory Return Tools](#) | [Update CES Census Lookups](#)

The list of CES Census staff ethnicity codes in Wales has been updated to comply with the CBDS values provided by the Welsh Government.

The option to select **Traveller of Irish/Gypsy/Roma Heritage** has been removed.

The **Staff Related Lookups** panel includes a new grid that enables **Staff with White Irish Ethnicity** to be recorded.

Cover

EP ES WP WS IN

Fixes

This release includes a fix in the following area:

- The correct room information is now displayed on the **My Timeline** panel on the SIMS **Home Page** following a change of room for a covered lesson (via [Focus | School | Arrange Cover](#)).

CTF

EP ES WP WS IN

Fixes

This release includes a fix in the following area:

- When importing a CTF for a new pupil/student without opting for the import of basic details, the **Ethnic Data Source** is no longer imported (via [Routines | Data In | CTF | Import](#)).

Examinations Organiser

ES WS IN

Fixes

This release includes a fix in the following area:

- When running the Summary Performance Table report for the PI Cohort 2019 KS4, all internal candidates in the cohort are now displayed, regardless of their leaving status on the effective date (in SIMS, via [Tools | Examinations | PI Reports](#)).

FMS

For information on the new features, enhancements and fixes included in FMS 6.190, please refer to the *FMS 6.190* Release Note.

Independent Schools Council (ISC) 2020 Return

Schools must upgrade to the SIMS 2019 Autumn Release before they can complete the ISC 2020 Return electronically.

New Features



ISC 2020 Key Dates

[Routines](#) | [Statutory Returns](#) | [ISC](#)

- Census date: 16/01/2020
- Age at date: 31/08/2019.

SEN Teacher Information

The following SEN teacher information has been removed from the ISC return:

- Full-time SEN staff
- Part-time SEN staff
- Total hours employed per week.

This change is reflected in the [SEN Provision](#) panel and applicable reports.

Year 13 Leavers - Deferred Students

The [Post Year 13 Leavers](#) panel now displays deferred entries in three rows:

- [Deferred entries \(gap year\) to UK universities](#)
- [Deferred entries \(gap year\) to overseas universities](#)
- [Deferred entries \(gap year\) unknown destination.](#)

The Post Year 13 Leavers section of the Student Detail report now includes a [Country](#) column. The information in this new column is derived from the country of the address as defined via [Tools | Other Schools – Address](#) panel.

Three new rows have been added to the ISC Summary report:

- [UK Universities - deferred](#)
- [Overseas Universities - deferred](#)
- [Unknown University - deferred.](#)

Means Tested Remissions

The [Means Tested Remissions](#) panel now enables you to enter data for percentage fees remissions that are [Greater than 100%](#).

This information is also included in the Summary report.

Calculation of Boarder Type

When the return is created and validated, the calculation of boarder type now includes pupils who are registered to board at any time from the start of the academic year to the census date:

- pupils who are continuing as borders from any previous year
- pupils who were boarders but are now day pupils.

The result of the calculation is displayed on the ISC Student on roll report and Summary report.

University or HEI Destinations

In the [University or HEI Destinations](#) panel, the [No. of Pupils](#) column now displays the number of pupils who are going to university this year.

The [Deferred](#) column now displays the number of pupils who have deferred to go to university next year.

New Pupil Breakdown

Home-schooled children of mandatory education age are no longer included in the calculation of [Nursery or not previously in education](#) pupils displayed in the [New Pupil Breakdown](#) panel.

Home-schooled children are now included in the [Other](#) category.

Summary Report

The Summary report now displays the SEND need category code instead of the SEND description.

Lesson Monitor

New Features



Additional Attendance Setup Options

[Tools](#) | [Setups](#) | [Attendance Setup](#) | [Module Setup](#)

When selecting **Defaults for Specific Routines** for **Student Identification Columns**, the following new options are available:

- **Include Middle Name** - middle name is included in the **Name** column in Attendance/Lesson Monitor grids where pupil/student names are listed.
- **Active User Defined Fields** - one option only can be selected from a list of all active pupil/student/applicant user defined fields. The selected option is then displayed as an identification column in Attendance/Lesson Monitor grids where pupil/student names are listed.

The following new options are available when selecting the required defaults for pupil/student **Display of Names**:

- **Show Forename before Surname**
- **Include Middle Name.**

The following new options are available when selecting the required defaults for **Order of names in registration group list**:

- **Order names by Preferred Surname**
- **Order names by Legal Surname**
- **Order names by Preferred Forename**
- **Order names by Legal Forename.**

School Holidays and Closures Planner

Applicable to schools in Northern Ireland only

[Reports](#) | [Lesson Monitor](#) | [Group Reports](#) | [School Holidays and Closures Planner](#)

This new report provides details of teaching and school closure days for a specified academic year.

Fixes

This release includes fixes in the following areas:

- Where only AM sessions or PM sessions are set for the academic year, column headings for all days of the school week are now displayed correctly (via [Focus | Lesson Monitor | Display Marks](#)).
- Earliest marks are no longer removed for students with a future date of leaving (via [Tools | Setups | Lesson Monitor Options | Lesson Monitor Setup](#)).
- For schools in Northern Ireland, the **Unable to create Export File, String or Binary Data would be Truncated** error no longer occurs when running the Closing School report (via [Reports | Lesson Monitor | Group Reports | Closing School Report](#)).

Nova-T6

New Features



Exporting Blocks of Classes from Options Online

[Focus](#) | [Options Online](#)

It is now possible to export the blocks of classes that have been constructed in Options Online to Nova-T. This enables the timetabler to proceed with staffing and scheduling blocks before the Options process is complete.

For more information, please refer to the *Options Online User Guide*.

Transferring Class Memberships from Options Online to SIMS

Focus | [Options Online](#)

It is now possible to transfer class memberships from Options Online into existing curriculum structures in SIMS.

For more information, please refer to the [Options Online User Guide](#).

Fixes

This release includes fixes in the following areas:

- When running Auto Scheduling, classes are no longer scheduled into non-teaching periods.
- The planned hours of other staff members are no longer impacted when a teacher code is edited (via [Plan | Teachers](#)).

Options Online

ES WS IN

Options Online does not form part of the SIMS 2019 Autumn 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>).

Personnel

EP ES WP WS IN

Fixes

This release includes a fix in the following area:

- A person named as a next of kin for a member of staff is no longer displayed in Delete Unlinked Persons (via [Tools | Housekeeping | Delete Unlinked Persons](#)).

Profiles

EP ES WP WS IN

Fixes

This release includes a fix in the following area:

- When printing compiled class check sheets, comments are no longer duplicated in the PDF output (via [Tools | Performance | Profiles | Batch Printing of Class Check Sheets](#)).

Pupil Level Annual School Census (PLASC) 2020 Return

New Features

WP WS 

PLASC 2020 Key Dates

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

- Census date is 14/01/2020
- Age at Date is 31/08/2019.

Class Details Report

The new Class Details report displays all class information collected for the PLASC return. The data and columns displayed are dependent on your school's phase.

Free School Meal Transitional Protection

To enable school administrators to check that the correct information has been recorded for pupil/students in SIMS, the [FSM Transitional Protection](#) column has been added to the Pupil Basic Detail report.

Reporting

Once you have upgraded to the SIMS 2019 Autumn 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_v7190.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.

EP **ES** **WP** **WS** **IN**

Fixes

This release includes fixes in the following areas:

- Performance enhancements have been introduced to the Missing Results report (via [Reports | Assessment | Missing Results Report](#)).
- Current registration group membership is now displayed correctly on the Registration Groups (Dated) report (via [Reports | Run Report – Focus | Student](#)).
- The correct pupil/student initials are now displayed in pupil/student-focussed user-defined reports when using the [Preferred Forename](#) and [Legal Forename](#) fields (via [Reports | Design Report](#)).
- Houses are now displayed correctly on user-defined reports for all applicants who have been accepted (via [Reports | Design Report](#)).

School Census Spring 2020 Return

New Features

EP **ES** 

School Census Spring 2020 Key Dates

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

- Census day 16/01/2020
- Attendance collected from the start of the Autumn term to 31/12/2019
- Exclusions collected from 01/09/2019 to 31/12/2019
- Free School Meal Eligibility collected from 04/10/2019 to 16/01/2020

- Learner Support collected from 01/08/2019 to 16/01/2020.

New Data Items

The following data items are being collected for the first time:

Not applicable to Nursery schools

- Permanent exclusion review date
- Permanent exclusion review result
- Permanent exclusion reinstatement date
- Permanent exclusion review SEN expert.

Applicable to Primary and All-Through schools only

- Teachers on planning and preparation time (PPA)
- Reason for class size exception
- Number of pupils to which the class size exception reason applies.

Planning, Preparation and Assessment Teachers

Applicable to Primary and All-Through schools only

The new [PPA Teachers](#) column in the [Classes](#) panel enables the recording of the number of teachers on planning, preparation and assessment time at the 'selected time' on census day. This information is required for infant class (Reception or Key Stage 1) only.

Information regarding PPA teachers is also available in the Class report.

Class Size Exceptions

Applicable to Primary and All-Through schools only

The [Classes](#) panel now enables the recording of the reason(s) for exceptional class sizes. An indication as to the [Number of classes with unexplained excess](#) is displayed at the top of the panel.

The new [Class Size Exceptions](#) button is activated only when an exceptional class size is highlighted. Clicking the [Class Size Exceptions](#) button displays the new [Class Size Exceptions](#) dialog, where the exception details can be recorded.

Class size exceptions definition: the total number of children per teacher in a Reception or Key Stage 1 class must be less than 31.

- Children = on-roll plus guest pupils
- Teachers = teachers plus PPA teachers.

Information regarding class size exception reasons is also available in the Class report.

Changes to Detail Reports

Applicable to Primary and All-Through schools only

The Class report now displays the **PPA Teachers** and **Class Size Exception Reasons** columns. A key to class size exception reasons is also included in the report.

Not applicable to Nursery schools

The Exclusions report has been updated to include the **Exclusion Reviews** table, which provides final governor review outcome information about permanent and fixed exclusions.

The Leavers Basic Details report now displays the new **Report Criteria** for exclusions and the report displays the applicable data.

Create & Validate Routine

When creating and validating the return, a message is displayed if there are permanent exclusions during the collection period without a corresponding final governor review result.

The message advises the user to check whether the permanent exclusions are ongoing and allows them to cancel or continue with the process.

School Level Annual School Census (SLASC) 2020 Return

Schools must upgrade to the SIMS 2019 Autumn Release before they can complete the SLASC 2019 Return electronically.

New Features



SLASC 2020 Key Dates

[Routines](#) | [Statutory Returns](#) | [SLASC](#)

- Census reference date: 16/01/2020
- Age at date: 31/08/2019.

Change to the Format of the Ofsted SC Reg No Field

[Focus](#) | [School](#) | [School Details](#)

The **Ofsted SC Reg No** field now accepts the change to the Ofsted social care registration number format.

School Workforce Annual Census

Schools must upgrade to the SIMS 2019 Autumn Release before they can complete the School Workforce Annual Census 2019 Return electronically.



To correct an issue with the return file name and to allow for the file produced by SIMS to be uploaded successfully to DEWi, you must upgrade to the SIMS 2019 Autumn Release before completing the School Workforce Annual Census 2019.



New Features

EP ES WP WS IN

Changes to Buttons and Icons on the SIMS Toolbar and in the Menu System



Some of the icons on the main SIMS toolbar and in the menu system have been updated. We will endeavour to update our range of user documentation in line with these changes in due course.

Enhancements to the Modify Pupil/Student Address Routine



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

The **Additional persons at this address** table has been removed from 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 now displayed in the **Linked People** dialog, which is accessed via the **Modify Address** button.

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

For any changes to persons linked to the pupil/student's address to be visible, the pupil/student record must be re-opened.

Enhancement to the Communication Log



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

When viewing information in a pupil/student's communication log, a separate window is now displayed for each communication.

Enhancement to the Staff Person Data Output Report



Routines | Data Out | Person Data Output

When the Person Data Output report is run for a member of staff, their **SWR Post** is now displayed in the **Contract** panel for each active contract.

Fixes

This release includes fixes in the following areas:

- Only contacts with parental responsibility are now displayed when generating pupil/student addressee salutations (via **Routines | Pupil (or Student) | Update Salutation/Addressee | Parental**).
- A pupil/student's attendance mode is now displayed correctly after saving and before class information is recorded (via **Focus | Pupil (or Student) | Pupil (or Student) Details**).
- The status of Check 96 in Database Diagnostics has reverted to the status it had prior to the upgrade to the SIMS 2019 Spring Release (via **Tools | System Diagnostics | Database Diagnostics**).
- Users assigned to the Administration Assistant permission group can now view and modify a contact's **Date of Birth** (via **Focus | Person | Contacts**).

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 2019 Autumn 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 2019 Autumn 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 2019 Autumn 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 2019 Autumn 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.capita-cs.co.uk/Notifications/SIMS-Release-Download-Links/>).

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 2019 Autumn Release (SIMS 7.190)
- SIMS 2019 Summer Release (SIMS 7.188).

Please note that the Teacher app does not form part of the SIMS 2019 Autumn 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.