



SIMS

Welcome to the SIMS 2022 Autumn Release

SIMS 7.208

All the new release features have been combined into one document to enhance and improve accessibility.

The following features are clearly marked as relevant for each region and school type.

**Combined
Release Notes**

Welcome to the SIMS 2022 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.

This release note is 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. We cannot be held responsible for any changes, errors or omissions resulting from subsequent editing of the supplied document.

Ideas Portal

Our ideas portal is the perfect place to raise any new ideas or enhancements to the existing functionality you may have. Take the opportunity to view, vote and promote ideas that you feel would make the most difference to your experience in SIMS. The product team are continually reviewing the ideas that are submitted and trending among the community for opportunities to further better the user experience. You can access the customer ideas portal via the support portal (https://customer.support-ess.com/csm?id=kb_article_view&sysparm_article=KB0043869). You must log in to the support portal to access the ideas portal.

Satisfaction Survey

The SIMS 7 Satisfaction Survey is your direct opportunity to feedback to the product team on your experiences and views of the software itself. The short questionnaire will give you the chance to detail your thoughts on the modules, rate the user experience and evaluate the latest additions. This can be completed anonymously should you wish, or you can provide your details for us to follow up for further research in the future. This can be completed anonymously should you wish, or you can provide your details for us to follow up for further research in the future. You can access the satisfaction survey:

- in SIMS 7, via [Tools | SIMS Satisfaction Survey](#).
- via <https://www.ess-sims.co.uk/user-survey>
- via the support portal (https://customer.support-ess.com/csm?id=kb_article_view&sysparm_article=KB0049142).

You do not need to log in to the support portal to access the satisfaction survey.

Essential updates to DeX

The SIMS 2022 Autumn Release includes essential updates to the DeX mechanism for the transfer of data. Consequently, it may take longer to upgrade to this release than it did for previous SIMS 7 releases.

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 baselined validation and summary report files from the DfE for School Census Spring 2023. 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.

Important Information for Schools in Wales

At the time this release note was produced, we had not yet received the baselined validation and summary report files from the Welsh Government for the PLASC 2023 Return. Schools should not provide their Return file to the Welsh Government until they have imported a fileset that includes the official Welsh Government 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 Minimum Hardware and Technical Roadmap* on the support portal (https://customer.support-ess.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.

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 2022 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	and	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FMS	11:00	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	11:00	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	13:00	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	11:00	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 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 have been able to use their SLG installation for a limited period. However, all functionality will be removed in a future release.

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

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

To discuss moving to these apps, please contact your SIMS Account Manager. Alternatively, contact us (<mailto:enquiries@parentpay.com>).

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 2022 Autumn Release without logging into SIMS, the [Documentation Centre](#) is accessible via the support portal (https://customer.support-ess.com/csm?id=kb_article_view&sysparm_article=KB0036819).

When a user logs in to 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
- 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 (<mailto:publications@parentpay.com>).

The Documentation Centres can be accessed from within our products:

- 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://customer.support-ess.com/csm?id=kb_article_view&sysparm_article=KB0037321), where you can access our range of Documentation Centres.

You do not have to log in to the support portal to access user documentation.

For the PDF editions of our video tutorials to display correctly, it was necessary to install Adobe Flash Player. Support for Adobe Flash Player ended on 31 December 2020. Consequently, we migrated our range of video tutorials from PDF to MP4 format. They remain available from the SIMS [Documentation Centre](#) on the support portal (https://customer.support-ess.com/csm?id=kb_article_view&sysparm_article=KB0036819).

If you have any comments or questions regarding any SIMS user documentation, please email the SIMS Publications team (<mailto:publications@parentpay.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

- 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/content/pdfDocuments** in the Address Bar then pressing **Enter**. 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 (<mailto:publications@parentpay.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 Support Portal...

User documentation is also available from the support portal (<https://customer.support-ess.com/csm>).

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

Permissions

The permissions spreadsheet, which lists all permissions relating to SIMS 7.208, is available from the [Documentation Centre](#). To access the SIMS [Documentation Centre](#), click the **Documentation** button on the SIMS [Home Page](#).

In the support portal, open the 7.208 SIMS Permissions Spreadsheet (https://customer.support-ess.com/csm?id=kb_article_view&sysparm_article=KB0036819).

Compatibility between One and SIMS

Please confirm compatibility with your Local Support Unit.

Support for B2B:Personnel ended with the release of One version 3.74 (Spring 2021). The B2B:Personnel table that has previously been present in this release note has therefore been removed.

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 2022	7.208	6.208	Supported	Supported
Summer 2022	7.206	6.206	Supported	Supported
Spring 2022	7.204	6.204	Not supported	Supported

NOTE: FMS 6.208 has been tested against SQL Server 2012, 2014 and 2016.

Personal Pronouns in SIMS

Recently, functionality was provided in SIMS that enables the setup and maintenance of personal pronouns. This functionality is accessible (via [Tools | Setups | Pronoun Setup](#)) and can be accessed by School Administrators and System Managers.

Personal pronouns can be chosen by pupil/students, applicants, contacts, staff members and agents and applied to their SIMS record. Once applied to an individual in SIMS, a suffix of their specified personal pronoun is displayed in bold text at the top of their record.

A number of enhancements have been made to various areas in SIMS to incorporate this functionality. For clarity and consistency, these enhancements have been prefixed in the Release Notes with **Personal Pronouns** to highlight the impacted areas.

Personal pronouns are not collected in any statutory returns at present, there is no requirement to report this information to the DfE.

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 18.0 or 19.0 ATF files only.

Personal Pronouns: Only Use in School Check Box

All regions, all phases

[Focus | Admission | Application](#)

An additional check box for **Pronouns: Only Use in School** has been provided to indicate whether an applicant's personal pronoun(s) should be included in external correspondence. When this check box is selected, all personal pronouns included in external correspondence will be masked by asterisks.

Assessment

New Features

Personal Pronouns - Only Use in School Check Box

All regions, all phases

[Focus | My Marksheet Entry](#)

[Focus | Assessment | Marksheet Entry](#)

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

[Focus | Assessment | Template](#)

An additional check box for **Pronouns: Only Use in School** has been provided to indicate whether a pupil/student's personal pronoun(s) should be included in marksheet outputs. When this check box is selected, all personal pronouns included in marksheets will be masked by asterisks.

Personal Pronouns - Enhancements to Individual Student Reports

All regions, all phases

[Focus | Assessment | Individual Report](#)

It is now possible to insert a **Personal Pronoun(s)** tag into Assessment individual reports.

Fixes

This release includes a fix in the following area:

- When selecting a template resource to export for a second time (via [Routines | Data Out | Assessment | Export](#)), an error no longer occurs.

Attendance

New Features

Attendance Tier Report

Applicable to Northern Ireland only

[Reports](#) | [Attendance \(or Lesson Monitor\)](#) | [Whole Group Pupil \(or Student\) Reports](#) | [Absence Tier Report](#)

The new Absence Tier report has been provided to enable schools in Northern Ireland to report on persistent absence based on tiers. This report can be used for tracking and monitoring purposes for vulnerable pupil/students.

Personal Pronouns - Attendance Letters

All regions, all phases

[Tools](#) | [Setups](#) | [Attendance Setup](#) | [Letter Definition](#)

[Reports](#) | [Attendance \(or Lesson Monitor\)](#) | [Letters](#)

When creating templates for Attendance letters, it is now possible to insert personal Pronoun(s) as an additional merge field. Personal pronouns are drawn from the **Basic Details** panel ([Focus](#) | [Pupil \(or Student\)](#) | [Pupil \(or Student\) Details](#)) provided that the **Pronouns: Only Use in School** check box is selected.

Catholic Education Services (CES) 2023 Return

Applicable to Catholic schools in England and Wales only

New Features

CES Census 2023 Key Dates

Applicable to Catholic schools in England and Wales

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

The census dates are different for English and Welsh schools:

- England: Thursday 19 January 2023
- Wales: Tuesday 17 January 2023.

Dinner Money

New Features

Wales only: Calculation Changes for UPFSM in Dinner Money

Welsh schools only, Nursery, Middle, Special and PRU

[Focus](#) | [Dinner Money](#) | [Record Pupil Meals](#)

- If a pupil is eligible for UPFSM on a specific day and does not have an exception for that day, then they will not be charged for the school meal.
- If a pupil is eligible for UPFSM on a specific day and also has an exception for that day, then they will be charged for the school meal.
- For a Nursery pupil to be eligible for UPFSM, they must be in attendance for a full school day, i.e. both morning and afternoon sessions.

Existing functionality for the eligibility of FSM and FSM Transitional Protection remains unchanged and is the primary reason why a pupil can receive a free school meal.

UPFSM is the third reason why a pupil can have a free meal.

Wales only: Enhancements to Dinner Money Reports

Welsh schools only, Nursery, Middle, Special and PRU

A new column labelled **U** which equates to **Universal Free School Provided Meal**, has been provided in the following reports:

[Reports](#) | [Dinner Money](#) | [Statistics](#) | [Dinner Numbers by Week](#)

- Dinner Numbers by Week Report

[Reports](#) | [Dinner Money](#) | [Statistics](#) | [Yearly Statistics](#)

- Yearly Statistics Report

[Focus](#) | [Dinner Money](#) | [Caring Return](#)

- Catering Return.

Fees Billing

New Features

Provision of Anti Money Laundering Fields

Applicable to all regions and phases

The following additional data fields have been provided to assist schools with anti-money laundering checks:

[Focus | Person | Contacts](#) (in SIMS)

A new drop-down list for **Nationality** has been included in the **Language** panel.

[Reports | Design Report | Contact](#)

The **Nationality** field has been added to the Reporting dictionary.

Applicable to Independent and all maintained schools with a Fees Billing licence

[Focus | Person | Bill Payer](#) (in Fees Billing)

A free text field for **Connection with Bill Payer/Pupil** has been included in the **Financial Details** panel.

[Focus | Pupil/Student | Pupil/Student Details](#)

From the **Fees Details** link in the **Links** section on the right-hand side of the pupil/student details page, a free text field for **Connection with Bill Payer/Pupil** is visible in the **Financial Details** panel.

[Reports | Design Report | Contact](#)

The **Nationality** and **Connection with Bill Payer/Pupil** fields have been added to the Reporting dictionary.

Processing Bills in Arabic

Independent and International Schools

Schools are now able to process their bills in Arabic, if required. Templates must be modified to reflect this requirement, and then applied to the relevant areas in Fees Billing so they can be utilised. In order to achieve this, the following menu routes must be visited.

- [Tools | Fees Billing | Parameters](#)

Select the *Process Bills in Arabic* check box.

- [Tools | Fees Billing | Charge Codes](#)

Add an extra **Description** to the charge codes in Arabic.

- [Tools | Setups | User Defined Fields](#)

Create any necessary user defined fields using the **Person Data Domain** and select the **Data Area(s)** check boxes for **Student Details** and **Bill Payer**. These user defined fields will subsequently be available for use in the **User Defined Fields** panel in both the **Student Details** (via [Focus | Pupil/Student | Pupil/Student Details](#) in SIMS) and can be added to a **Bill Payer** (via [Focus | Person | Bill Payer](#) in Fees Billing) records.

NOTE: All user defined fields created for the processing of bills in Arabic must be defined with a Description in the English language.

- [Reports | Fees Billing | Design Templates](#)

Once the necessary user defined fields are in place, you can create a new template or edit an existing template to incorporate the recently created user defined fields.

- [Focus | Fees Billing | Billing | Process Bills - Note and Term](#) fields and [Focus | Fees Billing | Billing | Add Notes to Bills - Notes to be Added](#) panel

The **Notes** and **Term** fields can recognise Arabic.

Fixes

This release includes a fix in the following area:

- For schools using Hosted SIMS, it is now possible to view transaction details to enable the correct, manual allocation of transactions (via [Focus | Fees Billing | Transactions | Allocate Transactions](#)).

FMS

For information on the new features, enhancements and fixes included in FMS 6.208, please refer to the *FMS 6.208* release note.

Independent Schools Council (ISC) 2023 Return

Schools must upgrade to the SIMS 2023 Autumn Release before they can complete the ISC 2023 Return electronically.

New Features

ISC Return 2023 Key Dates

Applicable to Independent schools in England and Wales

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

- Census date: 19/01/2023
- Age at date: 31/08/2022.

SEN Provision

To enable schools to record the number of SEN pupils whose fees are funded from Local Authority allocated funding, an additional question has been added to the **SEN Provision** panel:

How many of the Statemented or EHCP pupils have their fees funded by the Local Authority, either fully or partially?

Destination of Year 11 Pupils

Applicable to English Independent schools only

The new panel 16, **Post Year 11 Destination**, has been provided to enable schools to record where each Year 11 pupil has moved to (including those pupils staying in the school) during the period from the previous year's census to the current census.

A new section in the Summary report reflects the information recorded in the **Post Year 11 Destination** panel.

Lesson Monitor

New Features

Personal Pronouns - Attendance Letters

All regions, all phases

[Tools](#) | [Setups](#) | [Attendance Setup](#) | [Letter Definition](#)

[Reports](#) | [Attendance \(or Lesson Monitor\)](#) | [Letters](#)

When creating templates for Attendance letters, it is now possible to insert personal Pronoun(s) as an additional merge field.

Personal pronouns are drawn from the **Basic Details** panel (**Focus** | **Pupil (or Student)** | **Pupil (or Student) Details**) provided that the **Pronouns: Only Use in School** check box is selected.

Attendance Tier Report

Applicable to Northern Ireland only

[Reports](#) | [Attendance \(or Lesson Monitor\)](#) | [Whole Group Pupil \(or Student\) Reports](#) | [Absence Tier Report](#)

The new Absence Tier report has been provided to enable schools in Northern Ireland to report on persistent absence based on tiers. This report can be used for tracking and monitoring purposes for vulnerable pupil/students.

Fixes

This release includes a fix in the following area:

- It is no longer necessary to run the **Validate Memberships** routine (via **Tools** | **Validate Memberships**) or the **Database Diagnostics** routine (via **Tools** | **System Diagnostics** | **Database Diagnostics**) to prevent an error from occurring when accessing the **Take Register** or **Edit Marks** menu routes (via **Focus** | **Lesson Monitor** | **Take Register** or **Edit Marks**).

Options Online

Options Online does not form part of the SIMS 2022 Autumn Release.

For information on the latest release of Options Online, please refer to the Options Online Latest Release Information article, which is available on the support portal (https://customer.support-ess.com/csm?id=kb_article_view&sysparm_article=KB0039436).

Pay360 Education Payments

INDIA ONLY

Pay360 Education Payments enables schools to collect parent payments safely and securely. It supports the drive for schools to improve efficiency by reducing costs and streamlining payment collection administration.

For parents, Pay360 Education Payments offers the flexibility to make online payments whenever and wherever they like, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, safe in the knowledge that Pay360 Education Payments uses the highest level of card security.

FOR EVERYONE

Pay360 Education Payments does not form part of the SIMS 2022 Autumn Release.

For information on the latest release of Pay360 Education Payments, please refer to the Pay360 Education Payments Documentation - Latest Release Information article, which is available on the support portal.

Profiles

Personal Pronouns - Add Pronouns to Comment Bank Dictionary

All regions, all phases

[Focus](#) | [Profiles](#) | [Comment Banks](#)

The following **Personal Pronoun(s)** values have been added for inclusion in Profiles reports:

- He/She/They
- he/she/they
- Him/Her/Them
- him/her/them
- his/her/their
- His/Her/Their
- his/hers/theirs
- His/Hers/Theirs
- himself/herself/themselves
- Himself/Herself/Themselves.

Personal Pronouns - Inclusion of Pronouns in Profiles Reports

All regions, all phases

[Focus](#) | [Profiles](#) | [Session Manager](#)

[Focus](#) | [Profiles](#) | [Student Profiles](#)

[Focus](#) | [Profiles](#) | [Data Entry](#) | [List Entry](#)

[Focus](#) | [Profiles](#) | [Data Entry](#) | [Grid Entry](#)

The following **Personal Pronoun(s)** values have been added for inclusion:

- He/She/They
- he/she/they
- Him/Her/Them

- him/her/them
- his/her/their
- His/Her/Their
- his/hers/theirs
- His/Hers/Theirs
- himself/herself/themselves
- Himself/Herself/Themselves.

Pupil Level Annual School Census (PLASC) 2023 Return

New Features

PLASC 2023 Key Dates

Applicable to schools in Wales only

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

- Census date is 17/01/2023
- Age as at date is 31/08/2022.

GLD (General Learning Difficulties)

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

When recording a SEN need type, General Learning Difficulties (GLD) should no longer be used. Therefore, the **GLD** SEN Need Type category code has been set to inactive.

Reporting

Once you have upgraded to the SIMS 2022 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_v7208.RptDef](#) (typically found in [C:\Program Files \(x86\)\SIMS\SIMS .net](#)). Once imported, the updated reports are available to all users with the appropriate permissions.

New Features

Enhancements to the Reporting Dictionary

The following enhancements have been added to the Reporting dictionary:

Provision of Anti Money Laundering Fields

[Reports](#) | [Design Report](#) | [Contact](#)

The **Nationality** field has been added to the Reporting dictionary.

The **Nationality** and **Connection with Bill Payer/Pupil** fields have been added to the Reporting dictionary.

Addition of Personal Pronoun(s) Node

All regions, all phases

[Reports](#) | [Design Report](#) | [People](#)

[Reports](#) | [Design Report](#) | [People](#) | [Student](#)

[Reports](#) | [Design Report](#) | [People](#) | [Applicant](#)

[Reports](#) | [Design Report](#) | [People](#) | [Staff/Contact](#)

[Reports](#) | [Design Report](#) | [Agencies](#) | [Agent](#)

When designing a **People** or **Agencies** based report, additional **Personal Pronoun(s)** fields have been provided:

- He/She/They
- he/she/they
- Him/Her/Them

- him/her/them
- his/her/their
- His/Her/Their
- his/hers/theirs
- His/Hers/Theirs
- himself/herself/themselves
- Himself/Herself/Themselves.

Personal Pronouns - Only Use in School Check Box

All regions, all phases

Reports | Design Reports

When designing a report based on a **Student** or **Applicant**, a new **Attribute** of **Pronouns: Only Use in School** can be included with a filter of **True** or **False**.

Provision of Additional Data Items

England only, all phases

Reports | Design Reports

The following new data items have been provided for use when designing a report based on a **Student**:

Young Carer:

- Young Carer Identified By.

Alternative Provision Placement:

- Companies House
- AP Postcode.

The following new data items have been provided for use when designing a report based on a **School**:

- School Time.

Enhancements to the Person Data Output Report

England only, all phases except Nursery

Routines | Data Out | Person Data Output

The following enhancements have been added to the Person Data Output report to support a pupil/student's Alternative Provision Placement:

- Company Number
- AP Placement Postcode.

Archive File Location

For SIMS Hosted and SIMS Connected users

Reports | Import

For existing users, when importing the latest **.RptDef** file, the **Archive File** location no longer defaults to C:\Program Files (x86)\SIMS\SIMS .net. You can now specify the preferred location on your desktop.

For new installations of SIMS with a restricted drive for on-site users, an access restriction warning message is displayed initially.

Inclusion of Pronouns: Only Use in Schools Check Box for Student List Reports

All regions, all phases

Reports | Student List | General Student List

Reports | Student List | Class List

Reports | Student List | Registration Group List

An additional check box for **Pronouns: Only Use in School** has been provided to indicate whether a pupil/student's personal pronoun(s) should be included in external reports.

Fixes

This release includes fixes in the following areas:

- After designing a staff-based report (via [Reports | Design Reports](#)) that includes **Support Staff**, all support staff, their staff codes, and staff names are accurately reflected in the report output.
- An error no longer occurs when running a user defined report (via [Reports | Design Report](#)) that is based on **Admissions (Application)** and incorporates the **Court Order** field from the **Family/Home** node.
- After changing a staff member's preferred forename and surname where these differ from their legal names, the updated information is now displayed correctly when running timetable reports (via [Reports | Timetables | Staff Timetable\(s\)](#)).

School Census Spring 2023 Return

New Features

Alternative Provision

Not applicable to Nursery schools

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

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

Two new Alternative Provision data items are being collected in the Spring census:

- Companies House Number
- Alternative Provision Postcode.

These two new items are also included in the Alternative Provision detail report, which can be accessed via the School Census menu route.

School Census Spring 2023 Key Dates

Applicable to schools in England only

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

- Census day 19/01/2023
- Attendance collected from 01/09/2022 to 31/12/2022
- Exclusions collected from 18/04/2022 to 31/12/2022
- Alternative Provision Placements collected from 06/10/2022 to 19/01/2023
- Funding and Monitoring collected from 01/08/2022 to 19/01/2023
- Learner Support collected from 01/08/2022 to 19/01/2023
- Free School Meal Eligibility collected from 07/10/2022 to 19/01/2023.

School Time

Not applicable to Nursery schools

[School | School Details](#)

School Time is a new data item being collected in the Spring 2023 census. The collection is currently voluntary but will be mandatory in Spring 2024.

The definition of School Time is the total compulsory time pupil/students spend in school, in a typical five-day week, i.e. from morning registration to the end of the school day (official home time). This includes breaks and lunchtime but not optional activities before or after school.

Young Carer

Not applicable to Nursery schools

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

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

Young Carer indicator is a new data item collected in the Spring census. If a child is identified as a young carer, three options are available for selection:

- Not declared
- Identified by Parent or guardian
- Identified by School.

A new **Young Carer Identified By** column has been added to the On Roll Basic Details detail report, which can be accessed via the School Census menu route.

Attendance Information - Manual Entry

Not applicable to Nursery schools

The number of sessions that a pupil/student is unable to attend due to Coronavirus is no longer being collected. Therefore, the total coronavirus sessions (**T Corona Sessions**) column has been removed from the **Attendance** panel used by schools that enter attendance information manually.

School Level Annual School Census (SLASC) 2023 Return

Schools must upgrade to the SIMS 2022 Autumn Release before they can complete the SLASC 2023 Return electronically.

New Features 

SLASC 2023 Key Dates

Applicable to Independent schools in England

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

- Census reference date: 19/01/2023
- Age at date: 31/08/2022.

SIMS Core

New Features

Additional Fields Provided for Child in Need

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

An additional section has been provided in the **Welfare** panel, enabling schools to record the details of a **Child in Need**.

Enhancements to Maintain Detentions

All regions, all phases

[Focus](#) | [Behaviour Management](#) | [Maintain Detentions](#)

On saving the pupil/students who have been added to a detention, a confirmation message is now displayed indicating that related behaviour incidents will be created for each of the pupil/students if you proceed.

Personal Pronouns - Enhancements to Student Teacher View

All regions, all phases

[Focus](#) | [Student](#) | [Student Teacher View](#)

A suffix of the pupil/student's chosen personal pronoun is displayed in bold text at the top of their **Student Details** page.

Personal Pronouns - Button to Add Pronouns to the SIMS Dictionary

All regions, all phases

[Tools](#) | [Setups](#) | [Pronoun Setup](#)

An additional button has been provided that enables you to add the saved pronouns to the SIMS **Dictionary**. This ensures that subsequent use of personal pronouns does not result in the pronouns being highlighted as spelling mistakes or unrecognised words in Assessment and Profiles reports.

The following user roles can add saved pronouns to the SIMS Dictionary:

- School Administrator
- System Manager
- LEA Export User
- Personnel Officer
- Personnel Assistant
- SP Manager.

Personal Pronouns: Only Use in School Check Box

All regions, all phases

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

An additional check box for **Pronouns: Only Use in School** has been provided to indicate whether a pupil/student's personal pronoun(s) should be included in external correspondence. When this check box is selected, all personal pronouns included in external correspondence will be masked by asterisks.

Wales only: Ability to Record UPFSM Details in the Dietary Panel

Applicable to Nursery, Primary, Middle and Special schools, and Pupil Referral Units in Wales only

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

A *Universal Primary Free School Meals (UPFSM)* section has been provided in the *Dietary* panel. The following information can be recorded:

- **Eligible for UPFSM** - determined by comparing the Year Taught In of the pupil/student with the status of that curriculum year's UPFSM roll-out on today's date.
- **Exception for UPFSM** - determined by comparing the Exception Start and End Date with today's date.
- **Exception Start Date** - the date the exception applies from.
- **Exception End Date** - the date the exception ends.
- **Reason** – nature of the exception.

Wales only: New Setup Routine for UPFSM Roll-out

Applicable to Nursery, Primary, Middle and Special schools, and Pupil Referral Units in Wales only

[Tools](#) | [Setups](#) | [UPFSM Roll-out](#)

A new menu route has been provided to enable the setup and maintenance of Universal Primary Free School Meals in Wales.

Wales only: Provision of UPFSM Exception Reason Lookup

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

A new lookup has been provided for UPFSM Exception Reason:

- PO - Parents Opted Out
- PE - Policy Exception.

Additional codes and descriptions may be created, as required.

Wales only: Changes to the SEN Need Type Lookup Values

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

The Welsh Government CBDS has removed the value for **GLD - General Learning Difficulties** from the **SEN Need Type** lookup. This has been made inactive although it may be used to update historical SEN Needs records only.

Enhancements when Recording a Student as a Leaver

All regions, all phases

[Focus](#) | [Pupil/Student](#) | [Pupil/Student Details](#)

[Routines](#) | [Students](#) | [Leavers](#)

When recording a pupil/student as a leaver, a warning message is now displayed advising that 'Recording a **Date of Leaving** and **Reason for Leaving** will make the learner a leaver. In this instance, some details including Panel 8 **Ethnic/Cultural** will become locked and non-editable. Please ensure all data is recorded. Would you like to continue?'. If you click the **Yes** button, the pupil/student is recorded as a leaver and their record is no longer editable.

Additional Value Added to Reason for Leaving Lookup

Independent schools only

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

To support the new panel called **Post Year 11 Destination** for the Independent Schools Council (ISC) census, an additional value named **Sixth Form College** has been added to the **Reason for Leaving (This School)** lookup.

GDPR Report for Bulk Delete Audit

All regions, all phases

[Routines](#) | [Students](#) | [Bulk Delete Student Data](#)

A report has been provided that records an audit log of the bulk deletion process. The following details are displayed:

- Username
- Delete Date
- Data Domains
- Academic Year
- Number of Persons Deleted
- Job Status.

Fixes

This release includes fixes in the following areas:

- The Attendance start date for all pupil/students has been amended so that it does not incorrectly display the earliest Date of Arrival (via [Routines](#) | [Data Out](#) | [CTF](#) | [Export CTF](#)).
- An error no longer occurs when accessing the Document Management Server page (via [Tools](#) | [Setups](#) | [Document Management Server](#)) using the Sysman login.
- An error no longer occurs when associating a new pupil/student with an existing contact in SIMS (via [Focus](#) | [Student](#) | [Student Details](#)).

SIMS Homepage

Additional ESS Newsfeed Widget

All regions, all phases

[Focus](#) | [HomePage](#)

A new widget has been provided that ensures all school users can view and access specific information about SIMS, especially our NextGen products. This is based on relevant newsfeeds that are posted to Service Now within the last 90 days. This widget is available for all SIMS users and is set to active, by default.

SIMS Hosted

Archive File Location

For SIMS Hosted and SIMS Connected users

[Reports](#) | [Import](#)

For existing users, when importing the latest **.RptDef** file, the **Archive File** location no longer defaults to C:\Program Files (x86)\SIMS\SIMS .net. You can now specify the preferred location on your desktop.

For new installations of SIMS with a restricted drive for on-site users, an access restriction warning message is displayed initially.

SIMS ID

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

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

SIMS ID does not form part of the SIMS 2022 Autumn Release. For more information, please visit the SIMS ID product page on the SIMS website (<https://www.ess-sims.co.uk/products-services/sims-id>).

SIMS Interventions

SIMS Interventions enables schools to enrol pupil/students who are not achieving as expected on a course of intervention measures. It is possible to allocate additional resources, monitor the use of these resources and gauge how these resources affect Key Performance Indicators, as well as record the cost of the resources. This enables schools to track the cost of intervention measures against overall effectiveness and the resulting pupil/student outcomes.

Additional Panel for Intervention Attendance

All regions, all phases

Focus | [Interventions](#) | [Run Intervention](#)

An extra panel has been provided for **Intervention Attendance** which enables you to record the pupil/students who attended and participated in each scheduled Intervention session.

Improvements and Amendments to Interventions

All regions, all phases

A number of enhancements have been introduced to improve Intervention functionality.

Focus | [Interventions](#) | [Plan Interventions](#)

- Additional values can now be added to the **Intervention Area** lookup (via [Tools](#) | [Lookups](#) | [Maintain](#)).

Focus | [Interventions](#) | [Run Intervention](#)

- Filter by **Academic Year** in Run Interventions
- Remove Academic Year restriction on Run Interventions.

[Reports](#) | [Interventions](#) | [Student Intervention Report](#)

- Intervention Notes can be included in the Student Intervention Report.

SIMS Parent and SIMS Parent Lite

FOR INDEPENDENT AND INDIA ONLY

The SIMS Parent and SIMS Student apps provide a convenient way to communicate with parents and students. Attendance data, homework, school reports and information about extra-curricular activities is all accessible from smartphone, tablet or PC and can be customised to suit your school.

FOR EVERYONE

SIMS Parent and SIMS Parent Lite do not form part of the SIMS 2022 Autumn Release.

For information on the latest releases of these products, please refer to the SIMS Parent and SIMS Parent Lite Latest Release Information article, which is available on the support portal

(https://customer.support-ess.com/csm?id=kb_article_view&sysparm_article=KB0039437).

SIMS Services Manager

The SIMS 2022 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 the *Useful Documents and Links* section of the *SIMS 7 Release Information* page on the support portal

(https://customer.support-ess.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 support portal

(https://customer.support-ess.com/csm?id=kb_article_view&sysparm_article=KB0035066).

Supported SIMS Versions with PX Autumn Release

The SIMS PX Agent should be upgraded to the PX 2022 Autumn Release immediately after, or in conjunction with, upgrading to the SIMS 2022 Autumn Release.

IMPORTANT NOTE: If you install the SIMS 2022 Autumn Release (SIMS 7.208) and continue to run an older release of the PX Agent, this is not guaranteed to work and is therefore not supported.

Updates to the SIMS Satisfaction Survey

The SIMS Satisfaction Survey has been updated for the SIMS 2022 Autumn Release. The link to the survey has also been updated.