

7.166 England Primary and Northern Ireland Primary Edition - version 1.0

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Welcome to the SIMS 2015 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. For instructions on how to do this, please go to the SIMS backup section of our website (<http://www.capita-sims.co.uk/backupsims>).

We publish highlights of the changes and benefits of each release on our blog (<http://www.capita-sims.co.uk/resources/blog>). The blog is available shortly after the release date.

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.

End of Support for SQL Server 2008

From the SIMS 2015 Summer Release onwards, SIMS, FMS, Discover, SLG, Partnership Xchange, SOLUS and InTouch run on SQL Server 2012 and SQL Server 2014 only. These products are no longer supported on SQL Server 2008 or SQL Server 2008 R2. For more information on support for SQL Server, please refer to the *SIMS Technical Roadmap* on My Account (<https://myaccount.capita-cs.co.uk>).

SIMS Services Manager

From the SIMS 2014 Autumn Release, the SIMS Services Manager (SSM) has been incorporated as part of the upgrade process. SSM is installed automatically and silently on the SIMS SQL Server as part of the server upgrade process and installs .NET Framework 4.5.2. The standard reboot that normally occurs as part of the .NET installation has been suppressed and will not occur automatically. Likewise, in order to protect the SIMS upgrade and to avoid causing alarm, if there are any issues with the installation of SSM or the .NET Framework, no error messages will be displayed and the rest of the SIMS upgrade will proceed as normal.

To enable the successful installation of these components, there must be 2Gb of free disk space available on the SIMS SQL Server.

If you run the upgrade manually and do not want SSM to be installed, please use the switch **/NoServicesManager** when you run **SIMSSQLApplicationSetup.exe**. The text in the switch is case sensitive.

For more information on .NET Framework 4.5.2, please refer to the Microsoft website (<http://www.microsoft.com/en-gb/download/details.aspx?id=42642>).

Information on the End of Support for SOLUS2

Applicable to Independent Schools, International Schools and Free Schools only

Please be aware that support for SOLUS2 ends on 30 September 2015. Schools must upgrade to SOLUS3 before upgrading to the SIMS 2015 Autumn Release.

If you have any other questions relating to the move to SOLUS3, please contact the Independent schools team on +44 (0)1285 647459 or visit our website (<http://www.capita-independent.co.uk>).

Applicable to all other schools

The SIMS 2016 Spring Release will be the last release supported by SOLUS2. Schools must upgrade to SOLUS3 before upgrading to the SIMS 2016 Summer Release.

If you have any other questions relating to the move to SOLUS3, please contact your Local Support Unit.

Additional Information

For more information on installing, configuring and using SOLUS3, please refer to the user documentation that is available from the SIMS **Documentation Centre**. To access the SIMS **Documentation Centre**, click the **Documentation** button on the SIMS **Home Page**.

For more information on support dates for software, 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.

SQL 2014 Migration

From the SIMS 2015 Summer Release onwards, SIMS, FMS, Discover, SLG, Partnership Xchange, SOLUS and InTouch are no longer supported on SQL Server 2008. For more information on support for SQL Server, please refer to the *SIMS Technical Roadmap* on My Account (<https://myaccount.capita-cs.co.uk>).

From the SIMS 2014 Autumn Release onwards, we support SIMS, FMS, Discover, SLG, Partnership Xchange, SOLUS 3.8 and InTouch on SQL 2014.

To facilitate server migration, a SQL Migration Tool is available. Please note that you must be running the SIMS 2014 Autumn Release or later before running the Migration Tool.

The Migration Tool assists with the migration of the SQL databases for SIMS, FMS and Discover. It enables you to install a SQL 2014 Express Edition instance and migrates the SIMS, FMS and Discover databases to the new database server. You are strongly advised to read the *Migrating SIMS, FMS and Discover to SQL 2014* handbook, which will be available from My Account (<https://myaccount.capita-cs.co.uk>) on product release.

If you are a SOLUS3 user then you can migrate your SOLUS3 system to SQL 2014 when you have upgraded to SOLUS 3.8.

For more information on migrating to SQL 2014, please refer to Resource Number 21101, the *SQL 2014 Migration Frequently Asked Questions* document, on My Account (<https://myaccount.capita-cs.co.uk>).

For information on obtaining the Migration Tool, please contact your Local Support Team.

If you use both SIMS and FMS, both systems must be running on the same version of SQL Server, i.e. SQL Server 2012 or SQL Server 2014.

For more information on support for SQL Server, please refer to the *SIMS Technical Roadmap* on My Account (<https://myaccount.capita-cs.co.uk>).

General

Before upgrading to the SIMS 2015 Autumn Release, you must ensure that the School Census Autumn 2015 Return has been completed and signed off. Once you have upgraded to the SIMS 2015 Autumn Release, it is not possible to carry out any further work on the Autumn Return.

If your school uses both Fees Billing and FMS, SIMS and FMS must be upgraded at the same time.

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** or the **SOLUS2** Wizard.

For instructions on carrying out an upgrade with **SOLUS3**, please refer to the *SOLUS3 for System Administrators* handbook.

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 9 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.

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 2015 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.

The person carrying out the installation of Discover must have Administrator permissions across the network.

Auto-Deployment of SIMS and Discover

If SOLUS3 auto-deployment is enabled for Discover, we recommend that the settings for Discover auto-deployment are set to start later than the SIMS auto-deployment start time plus the timeout.

The screenshot shows the SOLUS3 Settings page, specifically the Updates and Auto Deployments sections. The Updates section includes settings for check frequency (10 minutes), task timeout (30 minutes), rollback on failure (checked), and auto-download (checked) between 13:22 and 15:23. The Auto Deployments section shows a table of deployment schedules for various products.

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

If the times are not set like this, and the Discover deployment starts before the SIMS deployment, then the data transfer between SIMS and Discover will not work until the SIMS upgrade is completed.

Important Information Regarding SIMS Documentation

Following valuable feedback from customers, the **Documentation Centre** was redesigned as part of the SIMS 2014 Spring Release, with a focus on enhancing the user's experience.

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 still possible to search for user documentation by output type (handbook, tutorial, QRS, etc.) and then by functional area but now you can also search by role (e.g. Teacher, Administrator, Returns Manager, etc.).

A range of Frequently Asked Questions guides has been produced and 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: If you 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, these can be resolved by downloading the latest version of Flash Player (<http://helpx.adobe.com/acrobat/kb/known-issues-acrobat-xi-reader.html>).

From the SIMS 2015 Spring Release, a search facility has been added to 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"**.

To access the SIMS **Documentation Centre**, click the **Documentation** button on the **SIMS Home Page**.

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 9 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 now 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 no longer 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, which must continue to be delivered to this folder).

NOTE: If you wish to access the latest user documentation for the SIMS 2015 Autumn Release without logging into SIMS, the **Documentation Centre** is accessible using a web link (<http://simspublications.com/638475/index.html>).

IMPORTANT NOTE: If you do not wish to access user documentation provided in PDF format via the web and instead continue to access it from the [\SIMS\Documentation](#) folder on your SIMS Server, this can be achieved by downloading a local version of our documentation set from the following location:

<http://dl.capitasolus.co.uk/Downloads/DocCentre/SIMS-DocCentre-2015-Autumn.zip>

Once you have downloaded the file, unzip it to the [\SIMS\Documentation](#) folder on your SIMS Server. The downloaded documentation set is accessed by clicking the [Documentation](#) button on the SIMS [Home Page](#).

Help files remain unaffected by this change in approach and continue to be delivered to the [\Program Files\SIMS\SIMS .net](#) folder on each SIMS workstation.

IMPORTANT NOTE: If Google Chrome is your default web browser, please ensure you disable the Chrome PDF Viewer and enable the Adobe Acrobat plug-in to ensure that PDFs display correctly. This can be achieved by entering [chrome://plugins](#) in the Address Bar then pressing [Enter](#).

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.

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).

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...

Go to our My Account website (<https://myaccount.capita-cs.co.uk>). The most popular documents can be located by selecting [Knowledge Base | SIMS Publications](#) (located in the [Popular Searches](#) list). Alternatively, use the [Knowledge Base](#) search facility to display a list of all [Documents](#) containing the search criteria.

- **Search for:**
 - Surround a phrase with "double quotes" to find an exact phrase.
 - Prefix words with **+** to make them essential, e.g. **"Behaviour Management" +Primary +Training**.
- **Product:** Select the required product from the drop-down list.
- **From** and **To:** Entering a date or date range when the document was uploaded helps to filter the search results further.

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 you a copy.

Permissions

The permissions spreadsheet, which lists all permissions relating to SIMS 7.166, is available from the [Documentation Centre](#). To access the SIMS [Documentation Centre](#), click the [Documentation](#) button on the SIMS [Home Page](#).

In My Account, selecting [Knowledge Base](#), [SIMS Publications](#) (located in the [Popular Searches](#) list), enter [7.166 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 2015 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 2015 Release (3.57)	One Autumn 2015 Release (3.58)
SIMS Release Version	SIMS 2015 Summer Release (SIMS 7.164) Running B2B:Student v4 Phase 1	✓	✓
	SIMS 2015 Summer Release (SIMS 7.164) Running B2B:Student v4 Phase 2	✓	✓
	SIMS 2015 Autumn Release (SIMS 7.166) Running B2B:Student v4 Phase 1	✓	✓
	SIMS 2015 Autumn Release (SIMS 7.166) Running B2B:Student v4 Phase 2	✓	✓

B2B:Personnel

		One Release version	
		One Summer 2015 Release (3.57)	One Autumn 2015 Release (3.58)
SIMS Release Version	SIMS 2015 Summer Release (SIMS 7.164) without the Salary Range patch	✓	✓
	SIMS 2015 Summer Release (SIMS 7.164) with the Salary Range patch	✓	✓
	SIMS 2015 Autumn Release (SIMS 7.166) without the Salary Range patch	✓	✓
	SIMS 2015 Autumn Release (SIMS 7.166) 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	
		3.57 (Summer 2015)	3.58 (Autumn 2015)
SIMS Component	B2B:Student	v1.1	v1.1
	B2B:Personnel	v1.1	v1.1
	ATF	v11.0	v12.0
	CTF	v14 (for import) v15 (for import/export)	v14 (for import) v15 (for import/export)
	School Census	SC 2015/2016	SC 2015/2016
	PLASC	PLASC 2015	PLASC 2016
	ASL	v11.0 until 31/07/2015 v12.0 from 01/08/2015 (for import)	v12.0
	AMPARK	SIMS 7.162	SIMS 7.162
	ADT	v11.0 until 31/07/2015 v12.0 from 01/08/2015	v12.0

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 2015	7.166	6.166	Supported	Supported
Summer 2015	7.164	6.164	Supported	Supported
Spring 2015	7.162	6.162	Not supported	Supported

NOTE: FMS 6.166 has been tested against SQL Server 2012 and SQL Server 2014.

SLG Compatibility

SLG is guaranteed to support the previous two releases of SIMS, inclusive of any release it is shipped with.

Supported SIMS Versions with SLG Autumn Release

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

- SIMS 2015 Autumn Release (SIMS 7.166)
- SIMS 2015 Summer Release (SIMS 7.164)

IMPORTANT NOTE: If you install the SIMS 2015 Autumn Release (SIMS 7.166) 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 Spring Release

The SIMS PX Agent should be upgraded to the PX 2015 Autumn Release immediately after, or in conjunction with, upgrading to the SIMS 2015 Autumn Release.

IMPORTANT NOTE: If you install the SIMS 2015 Autumn Release (SIMS 7.166) and continue to run an older release of the PX Agent, this is not guaranteed to work and is therefore not supported.

Academic Management

Fixes

This release includes a fix in the following area:

- It is now possible to ensure that assessment result sets are displayed in the **Select Result Set** dialog (accessed via the **Curriculum Assignment by Scheme** page) by ensuring that the **View Exams** and the **Toggle Global Exams Filter** check boxes are both selected on the **Options** dialog (via **Tools | Performance | Options**).

Admissions

New Features

Enhancements to the Import of Admissions Transfer Files (ATF)



Applicable to Maintained schools in England only

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

It is now possible to import version 12.0 Admissions Transfer Files (ATF) files.

For schools that use the Enquiries functionality, when an ATF file that contains applicants who were originally recorded as enquirers is imported, the application is now linked to the enquiry, and the enquiry is marked as complete and inactive. This enables you to produce accurate marketing and/or conversion reports.

Where an ATF contains an applicant with a SEN Status of **S** (Statement) or **P** (School/Early Years Action+), and where there are no Needs specified in the ATF, the applicant's SEN Status is now imported into SIMS.

Fixes

This release includes fixes in the following areas:

- The contact details of accepted pre-admission applicants are now displayed in the **Associated Students** panel of the **Contact details** page (via **Focus | Person | Contacts**).
- Multiple medical practices can now be recorded against an application record (via **Focus | Admission | Application**).
- An error relating to invalid entries in tags for SEN and school history no longer occurs when importing an ATF file (via **Routines | Admission | Import ATF File**).
- When creating an application record from an enquiry, all communications associated with the enquiry are now transferred to the application record (via **Focus | Admission | Enquiry**).
- A display issue that caused the top of the **Subject Choices** table and its associated **New** button to become hidden and inaccessible when adding a sixth day to the **Early Years Attendance Patterns** in the **Registration Details** panel of the **Pupil Details** page, has been resolved (via **Focus | Admission | Application**).

Agora

SIMS Agora does not form part of the SIMS 2015 Autumn Release.

For information on the latest release of Agora, please refer to the Agora release note, which is available from the My Account website (<https://myaccount.capita-cs.co.uk>).

For detailed information on the enhancements to Agora in September 2015, please refer to the *Agora September 2015 Release* document, which is available from the My Account website (<https://myaccount.capita-cs.co.uk>) by searching for **RESOURCEID-1-3566**.

AMPARK

New Features

Enhancements for the SIMS 2015 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 2015 Autumn Release.

For more info, 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

Key Stage 2 Average Points and Fine Levels Increase in Maximum Allowed Value



Reports | School Report

The **Maximum** value has been increased to accommodate schools that want to record pupils who have achieved Level 6 at Key Stage 2.

The affected aspects are:

- KS2: Average Fine Points (values 1-41.99)
- KS2: Average Fine Level (values 1-6.99).

Improvements to the Programme of Study Tracking Data Entry Selection Parameters



Applicable to schools in England only

Focus | Assessment | Programme of Study Tracking Entry

Significant changes have been made to the layout of the **Selection Parameters** panel on the **Programme of Study Tracking** page, enabling clear and straightforward selection of the required parameters.

It is now possible to select **Houses**, **Courses** and **Classes** from the **Programme of Study Tracking Group Chooser** dialog when selecting a group for inclusion in the **Selection Parameters** panel.

Improvements to the Reporting Selection Parameters



Focus | Assessment | Programme of Study Analysis | Summative Attainment, Summative Progress, Formative Attainment and Formative Progress

To correspond with the significant changes made to the layout of the **Selection Parameters** panel on the **Programme of Study Tracking** page, the same changes have also been made to the **Selection Parameters** panel when running any of the Programme of Study reports.

These reports now enable you to view pupils who belong to a particular **Year Group**. The data can be interrogated further by viewing a sub-group of the original year group selected.

Improvements to the Subject/Strand Individual Report



Applicable to schools in England only

Reports | Assessment | Programme of Study | Subject/Strand Individual Report

It is now possible to select an **Academic Year** to display school expectations from previous years.

Ability to View Programme of Study Statements from Previous School Stages



Applicable to schools in England only

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

It is now possible for teachers to review prior achievements for on-roll pupils, for all previous school stages and year groups.

Access to the Programme of Study Reports



Applicable to schools in England only

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

The reports supplied for use with the Programmes of Study Tracking Entry functionality can now be accessed from the **Reports** button adjacent to the **Export** button, as well as via [Focus | Assessment | Programme of Study Analysis](#).

Additional Features Available on the Programme of Study Tracking Entry Page



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

It is now possible to **Show School Expectations Only** or **Show Statutory Statements Only** from the **Show/Hide** function when viewing a populated Programme of Study. Additionally, the column width can now be narrowed by clicking the **Narrow** button.

Additional View Types for Programme of Study Tracking Entry



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

It is now possible to select additional view types when specifying the **Selection Parameters** for a Programme of Study Tracking Entry. The default view type remains **National Curriculum**. However, selecting **Topic Overview** from the **View** drop-down list displays all **School Expectations** across the various subjects and strands in one overall topic. Selecting the **Summative Overview** view type collates all the overall aspects for both subjects and subject and strands from the summative assessment columns and displays them together in a single view.

Fixes

This release includes fixes in the following areas:

- When running the School Report, the information used to calculate the **Attainment 8/Progress 8 Calculation Data** figure has been corrected (via [Reports | School Report](#)).
- When running the School Report, the figures displayed for **Key Pastoral Factors** now correspond correctly with assessment data entered in Marksheet Entry (via [Reports | School Report](#)).
- When running the Subject/Strand Individual report, all the strands are now visible in the printed report output (via [Reports | Assessment | Programme of Study | Subject/Strand Individual Report](#)).
- An error no longer occurs when exporting an Individual Report that contains graphs (via [Focus | Assessment | Individual Report](#)).
- Where different week patterns are defined for different academic years (i.e. more than one week pattern is present in the school), an error no longer occurs when previewing, exporting or uploading an individual report for on-roll pupils (via [Focus | Assessment | Individual Report](#)).
- When importing a spreadsheet, the rows and columns no longer merge (via [Routines | Data In | Assessment | Import From Spreadsheet](#)).

- In Programme of Study Tracking Entry, an error no longer occurs when populating the results (via [Focus | Assessment | Programme of Study Tracking Entry](#)).

Attendance

Fixes

This release includes a fix in the following area:

- For schools in Northern Ireland, when running the Closing Schools Attendance report, all codes are now displayed on the report, with the possible attendance codes grouped together at the end (via [Reports | Attendance | Group Reports | Closing Schools Attendance Report](#)).

B2B:Student

New Features



Running Scheduled Tasks

From the SIMS 2015 Autumn Release, both SIMS and ONE can schedule data for B2B:Student.

The school can now schedule data from a new portal that is available via the [Manage Tasks](#) page.

When the school and LA are ready to use this new functionality (there are several pre-requisites that have to be fulfilled), the LA can select a migrate option to allow the changes to take place.

As part of the change, the running of the Scheduled Task is now performed using SIMS Services Manager, rather than the Microsoft Windows Task Scheduler.

Catholic Education Services (CES) Return

New Features

This release includes the functionality to produce the Catholic Education Services (CES) 2016 Return.

- For schools in England, the return takes place on Thursday 21 January 2016.

This year, categories for pupil religion have been added. Additionally, a religion code must now be recorded against each pupil.

Cover

Fixes

This release includes fixes in the following areas:

- When deleting a room closure or absence that covers multiple dates on the [Cover Arrangements](#) page, the confirmation dialog now displays the correct date range of the item that is being deleted (via [Focus | School | Arrange Cover](#)).
- When recording an absence, all period names are now displayed when recording the length of an absence [By Period](#) (via [Focus | School | Arrange Cover](#)).

CTF

New Features



Enhancements to the Import and Export of SEN Needs

[Routines | Data In | CTF | Import CTF](#)

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

To support the introduction of start and end dates of SEN Need Rankings, performance enhancements have been introduced to the import and export of [Need Type](#) and [Ranking](#) information.

Enhancements to the Import and Export of a General CTF

Applicable to schools in England only

[Routines | Data In | CTF | Import CTF](#)

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

Programme of Study (PoS) Assessments are now included in the **General** CTF, after selecting the respective check boxes in the **Data to be Imported** and **Data to be Exported** panels.

Additionally, **<PoS Assessments>** and **<PoS Assessment>** tags are now included in the **General** CTF import and export types.

Enhancements to the Import of Reason for Leaving Data

Applicable to schools in England only

[Routines | Data In | CTF | Import CTF](#)

Reason for Leaving data is now imported into the receiving schools even if the **<LeavingReason>** tag at the receiving school is marked as inactive in the **<School History>** and **<School>** containers.

Sure Start Tags Included when Importing a General CTF File

Applicable to Maintained schools in Northern Ireland only

[Routines | Data In | Import CTF](#)

New tags are now included for applicants in the **General** CTF import type (version 15.0 and later) for the following data:

- **Registered for Sure Start (<RegSureStart>)**
- **Attended Sure Start (<AttSureStart>).**

Fixes

This release includes a fix in the following area:

- The **Address** container is now included in the **Early Years Foundation Stage Data (FSP)** CTF export type. This fix does not apply to schools in Northern Ireland (via [Routines | Data Out | CTF | Export CTF](#)).

Discover

New Features



Enhancements to the Early Years Discover Graphs

The Early Years Discover Graphs have been updated to reflect the changes made to the **EYFS EY TT Ages and stages** grade set and include:

- **EY TT Stacked Bar Progress Year xx** (where xx relates to the year, e.g. N1, N2, YR, etc.)
- **EY TT Stacked Bar Attainment Year**
- **EY TT xx Progress Year R** (where xx relates to the area of learning, e.g. 09 reading).

Furthermore, the legend text has been updated in the EY TT Stacked Bar Progress graphs to provide more meaningful information.

Fixes

This release includes fixes in the following areas:

- An issue has been resolved where Discover would not install on a machine where only SQL 2012 has been installed.
- The Discover Bus Route graph has been renamed to the more appropriate Transport Routes.
- An error has been resolved when previously, the result set of a graph was modified in the Discover Administration Utility and the **Confirm** button was clicked. Additionally, original graph no longer disappears.
- The description for the Discover Behaviour Graph has been corrected.

Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS)

New Features



Additional Rising 2s Resources for Nursery Schools

[Focus](#) | [Assessment](#) | [Marksheet Entry](#)

Additional data entry marksheet templates have been provided for Rising 2s pupils. The marksheet templates are called:

- EY TT DataEntry Nursery YE1
- EY TT DataEntry Nursery YE2.

To complement the new marksheet templates, the following E1 and E2 result sets have also been provided:

- Year E1 BL
- Year E1 Aut
- Year E1 Spr
- Year E1 Sum
- Year E2 BL
- Year E2 Aut
- Year E2 Spr
- Year E2 Sum.

Updates to EYFS Grade Sets and Associated Resources

[Focus](#) | [Assessment](#) | [Grade Set](#)

For schools in England, the grade set values for the EY TT Ages and Stages grade set have been updated in line with the DfE guidance for attainment and analysis across Nursery and Reception years. In order to correspond with the Life Without Levels initiative, the alphabetical levels have been replaced by the values of **E** (Emerging), **D** (Developing), and **S** (Secure). A grade set history is maintained to preserve any previous data entered against the old values. Additionally, the values for the age grades have been adjusted to reflect the inclusion of new levels for ELG Expected. For example, the 40-60s (40-60 Months Secure) grade now has a points value of 19 instead of 20 and so on down through the grade set.

These changes also affect the grade set values for the EY TT ELG Value to Grade grade set, which is used to convert calculated values for the Summer term into the correct grade to be submitted in the statutory return.

The following EYFS resources have also been updated or amended, where appropriate:

Marksheet Templates

In these templates, the Nested If Then Else formulas for each of the 17 Early Learning Goals have been updated.

- [EY TT Data Entry Templates_YN1_YN2_YR.xml](#)
- [EY TT Data Entry Templates_YR_HT.xml](#).

Tracking Grids

In these attainment tracking grids, the column grade pattern of EY TT Attainment has been amended to reflect the element labels and additional label values that have been added to the EY TT Ages and Stages grade set.

- [EY TT Tracking Grids_YN1_YN2_YR.xml](#)
- [EY TT Tracking Grids_YR_HalfTermly.xml](#).

Aspect Analysis Grids

In all the analysis grids, the date range in the group filter has been updated in line with the current academic year. Additionally, the column Grade Pattern of EY TT has been amended to reflect the element labels and additional label values that have been added to the EY TT Ages and Stages grade set.

Fees Billing

Fixes

This release includes a fix in the following area:

- When a Bill Payer's forename is changed, the updated name is now displayed correctly in the title bar of the record when the record is saved (via [Focus | Person | Bill Payer](#)).

FMS

For information on the new features, enhancements and fixes included in FMS 6.166, please refer to the *FMS 6.166* Release Note.

InTouch

IMPORTANT NOTE: Due to the sensitive nature of some of the information that can be sent via SIMS InTouch, careful consideration should be given to report output prior to sending a message.

In most geographical regions, your educational establishment will be responsible for looking after pupil personal data. Any risks of sending this information electronically should be assessed and balanced against the benefits offered by the InTouch service. It is your responsibility as Data Controller to ensure that the most appropriate medium is used.

You should be mindful of your school's responsibilities with respect to information security. It is your school's responsibility to ensure that:

- fair processing notices inform parent/carers that email will be used to communicate important information.
- email addresses recorded in SIMS are accurate and up-to-date.

- court orders are recorded promptly and accurately to ensure that barred contacts do not receive emails about a child.
- email addresses are not entered 'on the fly' when selecting the recipients of a message, to reduce the risk of a message being sent to the wrong person.
- sensitive information is not sent insecurely.

The term 'sensitive information' includes, but is not restricted to, information about a person's health, criminal offences/allegations and associated proceedings, ethnic origin, religious beliefs, sexual life, etc.

For further detail of what a school can do to safeguard information that is transmitted via email, please visit the Information Commissioner's Office blog (<http://iconewsblog.wordpress.com/2014/05/06/keeping-parents-informed-what-schools-need-to-consider-when-using-email/>).

New Features



Sending Messages where the Associated Template Already Contains Text in the Message Body

[Focus | InTouch | Send Message](#)

When sending a message that includes body text as part of its associated message template, the **Send** button is now immediately enabled, meaning you no longer need to enter additional characters before sending a message.

Changes to the User and House Icons for Auto-Forwarded Messages

[Focus | InTouch | Show Messages](#)

[Focus | Home Page](#)

It is now possible to identify which **User** and **School** messages have been forwarded automatically. For all auto-forwarded messages that are sent following the upgrade to the SIMS 2015 Autumn Release, the **User** and **House** icons now incorporate a blue arrow. Auto-forwarded messages sent before the upgrade to the SIMS 2015 Autumn Release remain unaffected by this change.

Navigating Between Earlier and Later Messages from within a Message



[Focus | InTouch | Show Messages](#)

[Focus | Home Page](#)

It is now possible to navigate to the previous (**Earlier**) or next (**Later**) messages in your inbox via the **Review a Message** page.

Applying a Flag Status to Sent Messages

[Focus | InTouch | Show Messages](#)

[Focus | Home Page](#)

It is now possible to apply flags to any sent messages. This enables a message to be marked as flagged, completed or not flagged, facilitating message tracking. The sort order of messages can also be determined by the flag status column.

Recording Parental Responses to Unexplained Absence Messages



[Focus | InTouch | Show Messages](#)

[Focus | Home Page](#)

[Focus | Attendance | Deal with Unexplained Absences \(InTouch\)](#)

Replies from parents to Unexplained Absence messages can now be added to the log from the **Unexplained Absence Management** page. This enables the content of the reply to be viewed from the pupil record.

Messages marked as read on the **Unexplained Absence Management** page are now marked as read on the **Messages** widget on the SIMS **Home Page** and on the **Messages** page.

Display of Scheduled Send Date and Time on Queued Messages

[Focus | InTouch | Show Messages](#)

[Focus | Home Page](#)

The **Scheduled** send date and time is now displayed when reviewing a queued message on the **Review a Queued Message** page.

Personnel

Fixes

This release includes fixes in the following areas:

- The Individual Absence report now correctly displays all absence types linked to a sickness category (via [Reports | Personnel | Individual Absence](#)).
- The Staff Observations report now displays the correct number of lesson observations for the selected date range (via [Reports | Personnel | Staff Performance | Staff Observations](#)).

Profiles

Fixes

This release includes a fix in the following area:

- When the £ symbol is included in a comment that is selected for use in the **Comment Editor**, the comment is now displayed correctly when the report is previewed or printed (via [Focus | Profiles | Data Entry | List Entry](#)).

Reporting

Fixes

This release includes fixes in the following areas:

- An error no longer occurs and the report columns are now displayed correctly when running the Projected Student Numbers report (via [Reports | Admissions | Projected Student Numbers](#)).
- When the School Report is **Generated** and the **Exclusions** check box is selected, the correct total for exclusions is now displayed (via [Reports | School Report](#)).

- When running a report from the Application focus, family links are now retrieved correctly from a prospective student, current student or leaver (via [Reports | Design Report](#)).
- A new sub-report ([Marketing Reasons](#)) has been added to the [Enquiry Links](#) data area in the reporting dictionary, enabling you to report on the marketing reasons of the enquiry for prospective pupils (via [Reports | Design Report](#)).
- A new sub-report ([Medical Practice](#)) has been added to the [Medical](#) data area in the reporting dictionary. This enables reports (including the Data Collection Sheet report) to return correct results where a pupil is associated with more than one medical practice (via [Reports | Run Report - Focus | Data Collection Sheet | Data Collection Sheet](#)).

School Census Spring 2016 Return

New Features



Key Dates for the School Census Spring 2016 Return

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

Census date: 21/01/2016

Attendance collected from the start of the Autumn term 2015 to 31/12/2015

Exclusions collected from 06/04/2015 to 31/08/2015

Free school meals collected from 02/10/2015 to 21/01/2016

Learner support collected from 01/08/2015 to 21/01/2016.

Child Care Enhancements

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

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

To enable childcare provisions that are provided or signposted by the school to be maintained at any point during the year, the following changes have been made in SIMS:

- The childcare items previously recorded in the School Census Summer Return (via the [Routines](#) menu) have been moved to the [School Details](#) page (via the [Focus](#) menu). Items can be added, edited and deleted.
- The School Census [Childcare](#) panel (originally introduced in the School Census Summer 2015 return) is now read-only and is available in the Spring return only. An [Edit](#) button links directly to the [School Details](#) page, where an editable [Childcare](#) panel is displayed.
- [Childcare Provisions](#) have been added to the General detail report.
- Two new lookups are now available - Childcare [Site](#) and Childcare [Signposted](#).

Early Years Pupil Premium Eligibility Enhancements

[Tools](#) | [Statutory Return Tools](#) | [Update Early Years](#)

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

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

- The menu route previously named [Tools | Statutory Return Tools | Update Hours for Early Years](#) has changed to [Tools | Statutory Return Tools | Update Early Years](#).
- A new report, entitled Early Years Report, is available from the [Detail Report](#) drop-down list in the School Census area of SIMS.
- The existing [Hours for Early Years](#) panel has been renamed [Early Years](#).
- Columns named [Basis for EYPPE Eligibility](#) and [In Care](#) have been added to the [Early Years](#) panel. The [In Care](#) column is read-only.
- The following new lookups are available when specifying the basis for EYPPE eligibility: [Not Eligible](#), [Economic](#), [Other](#), [Economic and Other](#) and [Unknown](#).

New Functionality for a Brand New Academy/Free School

Focus | School | School Details

For a brand new Academy/Free School, where there is no previous DfE number and no previous database, the School Census can now be run without having to enter the date when the school **Establishment Number** or the **Unique Reference Number** (URN) changed.

SIMS Learning Gateway

For complete information on the new version of SIMS Learning Gateway and ADPS, including upgrade instructions, please refer to the release notes that will be made available from our My Account website (<https://myaccount.capita-cs.co.uk>) on product release.

New Features

Enhancements to the My Homework Timeline on the SIMS Home Page

Focus | Home Page (in SIMS)

A green progress bar is now displayed at the bottom of each homework task on the **My Homework Timeline** panel, where handed in dates for one or more pupil have not yet been recorded. The progress bar indicates the percentage of pupils who have a handed in date recorded against this homework task.

Hovering over homework tasks on the **My Homework Timeline** panel displays the name of the task, the number of tasks **Assigned**, the number of tasks recorded as **Handed in** and the number of extensions granted (**Extended**).

Enhancements to the Publish Reports Routine

Efficiencies relating to the SLG report timer job and permissions job have been introduced to the Publish Reports routine.

Enhancements to SLG and Web Parts

Enhancements to SLG and Web Parts have been introduced to facilitate compatibility with browsers, iOS and Android.

SIMS Core

New Features

Enhancements to the Needs Table in the Basic SEN Details Panel



Focus | Pupil | Special Educational Needs

A number of enhancements have been made to the **Needs** table in the **Basic SEN Details** panel:

- The table has been renamed from **Needs** to **Current Needs**
- The **Recorded On** column has been removed
- The column order has been changed
- The **Start Date** column now displays start dates that were previously available only from the Reporting Dictionary.
- The new **Report** button enables you to run the SEN Needs Report.

When you click the **New** button adjacent to the **Needs** table, the name of the dialog has changed from **Add/Edit SEN Need** to **Add SEN Need**. In this dialog, the **End Date** field has been removed.

When you click the **Open** button adjacent to the **Needs** table, the name of the dialog has changed from **Add/Edit SEN Need** to **Edit SEN Need**. In this dialog, the **Need Type** field is now read-only.

Addition of the SEN Needs Report



Focus | Pupil | Special Educational Needs

A new report (the SEN Needs report) displays all current and historic needs for a selected pupil and ranks them as of the effective date. This report is run from the **Current Needs** panel.

Enhancements to the Deletion of a Current Need Type



Focus | Pupil | Special Educational Needs

When deleting a need from the **Needs** table in the **Basic SEN Details** panel, the following message is now displayed:

This action will remove all History of the selected Need for this pupil. Are you sure you wish to delete this Need?

When the **Student SEN details** page is subsequently saved, the warning message has changed to the following:

SEN Need record(s) have been removed for this pupil, are you sure you wish to delete? Changes will be irreversible.

When a need is deleted, the record can be viewed from the **Needs Change Log** dialog. When an end date has been recorded for a need, or when its **Ranking** is edited, the changes are now displayed on both the **Needs History** and **Needs Change Log** dialogs.

Improvements to the Needs History Dialog



Focus | Pupil | Special Educational Needs

The **Needs History** dialog is now read-only and displays only the needs that have ended (i.e. the need has an end date). The **Ranking** column, **Recorded On** column, the **Print** button and the **Delete** button have been removed.

The **Edit SEN Need History** dialog is now named **View SEN Need History**. This dialog is now read-only.

Display of Ranking Changes on the Needs Change Log Dialog



Focus | Pupil | Special Educational Needs

When the **Ranking** of a need is edited, the changes are now displayed in the **Needs Change Log** dialog.

Addition of the Special Needs Sub-Report to the Reporting Dictionary



Reports | Design Report - Focus | Student

A new sub-report named **Special needs** is now available in the Reporting Dictionary.

Recording of Destination Institution



Focus | Pupil | Pupil Details - School History panel

It is now possible to record the **Destination Institution** for school leavers.

Destination institutions are defined as part of the Other Schools routine (via **Tools | Others Schools**).

For schools in Northern Ireland, four additional fields are displayed:

- **Pre-School Experience** (not visible in post-Primary schools)
- **Gap Year** (not visible in Primary schools)
- **Registered for Sure Start**
- **Attended Sure Start.**

Fixes

This release includes fixes in the following areas:

- In the expanded **Attendance Intervention** panel of the **Pupil Teacher View**, the line graph now displays the correct number of **Conduct** points (via **Focus | Pupil | Pupil Teacher View**).
- An error no longer occurs when editing the **Linked Students** recorded against a historical detention (via **Focus | Behaviour Management | Maintain Detentions**).
- When selecting the pupil(s) you want to link to an achievement, an error no longer occurs when opening the **View** drop-down list on the **Select Students** dialog (via **Focus | Behaviour Management | Maintain Achievements**).

- When viewing an Emergency Alert message, the read-only **Student** panel is no longer displayed on the message dialog (via [Focus | Home Page](#)).
- When scrolling through pupils on the Pupil Teacher View, a display issue that was, in some cases, causing the assessment results for the previously viewed pupil to be displayed when hovering over an assessment in the **Assessment Key Indicators** widget for the next pupil, has been resolved (via [Focus | Pupil | Pupil Teacher View](#)).

Teacher app

New Features

SIMS Teacher app Compatibility

The SIMS Teacher app is guaranteed to support the previous two releases of SIMS, inclusive of any release it is shipped with.

The SIMS Teacher app Autumn Release can be used alongside the following versions of SIMS:

- SIMS 2015 Autumn Release (SIMS 7.166)
- SIMS 2015 Summer Release (SIMS 7.164).

iOS Updates

- Support staff access – allows any members of staff recorded in SIMS to have access to the Teacher app, with available features based on assigned permissions from SIMS.
- Assessment without Levels/Programme of Study marksheets to enable users to enter and review assessment data on the fly.

Windows 8.1/Windows RT and Android 4.4.2 or above Versions

- Provision for offline use of the Teacher app.
- Support staff access – allows any members of staff recorded in SIMS to have access to the Teacher app, with available features based on assigned permissions from SIMS.