

MIS NEWSLETTER



All things MIS from your local support unit!

The Team



Cheryl Todd
Director of Operations



Lynda Angel
Senior Applications Officer



Beth Angel
Applications and
Procurement Officer



Chris Dymond
Applications and
Procurement Officer

Welcome to the Spring Term!

Hello,

We hope you all had a lovely February half-term. Easter is fast approaching so we're back with our termly newsletter!

Thank you to those who attended our MIS User Groups. We hope you found the sessions useful.

As always, if you need help with anything MIS-related, please get in touch!

Cheryl, Lynda, Beth and Chris
One IT MIS Team

DATES FOR THE DIARY

SIMS Upgrades

11th March 2024 onwards

Pupil Census Drop-Ins

Week beginning 6th May
2024

Pupil Census Day

16th May 2024

Pupil Census Submission Deadline

12th June 2024

New Attendance Rules from September 2024

Ministers publish new guidance that will become statutory from September.

- £80 fines and 'improvement notices'** - Absence fines charged to parents will rise from £60 to £80, or £160 if not paid within 21 days. Schools decide whether to issue fines, but councils administer them.
- National fine thresholds** - From September, schools will have to consider a fine if a pupil misses 10 sessions (half days) of unauthorised absence in a rolling period of 10 school weeks. They should "not have a blanket position of issuing or not issuing penalty notices".
- Councils can use cash for support** - Penalty notices are "not a money-making scheme and local authorities should not have income targets", and revenues "must be ringfenced for attendance", guidance says.
- Mandatory daily data sharing** - Schools must share daily attendance data with government from September. The "easiest way" to do this is by having an electronic management information system" which DfE can access and allows an automated flow of data.
- Don't give pupils leave for protests** - It is up to schools whether they grant absences, but today's updated guidance lists the scenarios this should be restricted to - including study leave or interviews.
- Flag long-term sick leave with LAs** - Schools will have to give councils the name and address of sick pupils who they believe will miss 15 consecutive or cumulative days.
- Be mindful of mental health** - Schools should now be "particularly mindful of pupils absent from school due to mental or physical ill health or their special educational needs and/or disabilities, and provide them with additional support".
- Don't 'retrospectively' remove pupils from registers** - Guidance is now more prescriptive about when pupils should and should not be removed from admissions registers.
- New restrictions on 'B' codes** - Ministers have also shaken up attendance codes, amid concerns they can be misused to send children home.
- Codes C and Y split up** - The government has created additional 'C' and 'Y' codes and added a new 'Q' code.

Please click on the links below for further details:

[Here's what schools need to know](#)

[Working together to improve school attendance guidance](#)

SIMS Upgrades

We will be completing SIMS upgrades from 11th March onwards. This will be done out of hours. If you would like to book a specific date for your upgrade, please either call us on **01642 635570** or email helpdesk@oneitss.org.uk

PowerBI

We have a few pre-configured PowerBI reports that we can share with schools. Please get in touch if you'd like more information on PowerBI and what it can do for you.

Arbor MAT MIS Packages

Arbor are discontinuing their MAT Legacy package and have contacted Trusts with details of their new packages.

You can watch a recording of their latest webinar detailing all of the new packages and features [here](#).

One IT Website

Please don't forget we post a lot of information to our website to help you with things like Census and Statutory Assessments. If there's something that you'd like to see on there, please let us know!

www.oneitss.org.uk/mis

MIS Features Spotlight

Please see the information below relating to specific MIS systems.



ArborFest 2024

If you can't make it in person you can sign up for the live stream [here](#).

What to do in Arbor if your school gets a ransomware attack

Cyber attacks are rare but can be hugely disruptive and so it's never a bad idea to be prepared. Read [this article](#) to learn how Arbor keeps your data safe and what to do if your school or trust is affected.



Bromcom Training Portal

Bromcom have a new training portal. Please click the links below for more information.

[How to Use the Bromcom Training Website](#)

[Bromcom Training Website](#)



February Updates

- **Logging in** - Staff that are set as Inactive, even if they have a login, are no longer able to log in. As part of this change, we also added a column to the [ScholarPack Users report](#) to check who is able to log in. You can find full details here: [Changes to Staff access from 8th February 2024](#)
- Further updates can be found [here](#)

The SIMS logo is the word "SIMS" in a bold, black, sans-serif font, centered within a white square with a thin black border.

SIMS Next Gen

We can help you get started with SIMS Next Gen* so that you can take registers online instead of being tied to a PC or laptop during registration times.

If you'd like more information, please get in touch!

*Dependent on eligibility

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