SIMS 2017 Spring Pre-Release Note

Welcome to the SIMS 2017 Spring Release
Admissions
Agora
AMPARK
Assessment
Attendance
Attendance Collection (Wales)
Course Manager
CTF
Discover
End of Key Stage (England)
End of Key Stage (Wales)
Examinations Organiser
Fees Billing
FMS
InTouch
Lesson Monitor
Reporting
School Census Summer 2017 Return
SIMS Activities
SIMS Core
SIMS ID *NEW*
SIMS Interventions *NEW*
SIMS Services Manager
Teacher app
Welcome to the SIMS 2017 Spring Release

The SIMS 2017 Spring Release contains updates to Admissions, AMPARK, Assessment, Attendance, Attendance Collection (Wales), Course Manager, CTF, Discover, End of Key Stage (England), End of Key Stage (Wales), Examinations Organiser, Fees Billing, InTouch, Lesson Monitor, Reporting, School Census Summer 2017 Return and SIMS Core.


Updates to Agora and the Teacher app will take place during the Spring term. Agora and Teacher app updates are not tied to a specific release.

A Beta release is planned to be made available in mid-January 2017. For further updates, please refer to the SIMS Release Hot Topic on My Account

NOTE: This release is planned to be made available before close of business on Friday 10 March 2017.

Admissions

Relocation of Tier 4 Information

Applicable to Independent schools only

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

The method of recording Tier 4 information has changed. This functionality can now be accessed by clicking the Tier 4 Details item in the Links panel. Previously, this information was recorded in the Add Student Nationality dialog (on the pupil/student record) and the Add Applicant Nationality dialog (on the applicant record).

The Tier 4 Details page enables the recording and maintenance of the following information:

- Basic Tier 4 information, such as Place of Birth (via the Basic Details panel).
- Immigration details, including multiple and historical Visa and Confirmation of Acceptance for Studies (CAS) records. A number of fields have been added to help to meet Tier 4 requirements (via the Immigration History panel).
- Any reports sent to the Home Office with regards to a change in situation of a Tier 4 pupil/student, e.g. a change in Visa, failed exams, etc. (via the Home Office Reporting panel).

Agora

SIMS Agora does not form part of the SIMS 2017 Spring Release.

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

AMPARK

Enhancements for the SIMS 2017 Spring 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 2017 Spring Release.

For more information, please refer to the Assessment Manager and Performance Analysis Resource Kit release note, available from the My Account website (https://myaccount.capita-cs.co.uk).

Assessment

Retention of Last Used Group Selection

Focus | Assessment | Programme of Study Tracking Entry

When accessing a Programme of Study tracking grid, the groups selected and saved previously (in the Programme of Study Tracking Group Chooser dialog) are now retained as the default option.
Changes to Welsh National Tests for Schools in Wales

To address the statutory responsibilities of schools, the existing National Numeracy and Reading Test templates have been updated to align with official government guidance and assessment reporting arrangements for 2017. These resources are provided via the Assessment Manager and Performance Analysis Resource Kit (AMPARK). For more information on the updated AMPARK resources, please refer to the AMPARK 7.174 release note, which can be on the My Account website (https://myaccount.capita-cs.co.uk/hot-topics/AMPARK).

Attendance

SIMS Interventions Pupil/Student Identification Column

Tools | Setups | Attendance Setup | Module Setup
Focus | Attendance (or Lesson Monitor)

An additional pupil/student identification column (Interventions) is now available in several areas of Attendance and Lesson Monitor. This new column displays the number of interventions with which a pupil/student is associated and hover help displays the intervention details applicable on the selected date.

Attendance Collection (Wales)

Collection Periods

Primary Schools: 1 September 2016 to 28 July 2017 (data must be returned by 15 September 2017).
Secondary Schools: 1 September 2016 up to and including Friday 26 May 2017 (data must be returned by 16 June 2017).

Changes to Validation Rules

The following table shows the changes to validation numbers between 2016 and 2017.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2016 validation number</th>
<th>2017 validation number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>12735</td>
<td>12849</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12736</td>
<td>12850</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Course Manager

Removal of the Import Performance Measures File Functionality

Applicable to schools in England only

Tools | Examinations | Import Qualification Data

Schools in England are no longer required to import a Performance Measures file provided by Capita SIMS. With the introduction of the cloning of QNs (formerly referred to as QANs) from the previous academic year functionality, schools can now manage their own examinations data.

For more information, please refer to the applicable region-specific version of the Processing Results and Calculating PI Data in Exams and SIMS handbook.

Renaming of the Retake Column to Non Funded

Applicable to schools in England only

Tools | Academic Management | Course Manager | Maintain Course

The column previously called Retake has been renamed and now displays the Non Funded status of a Learning Aim.

The Non Funded field is available from the reporting dictionary, enabling it to be included in reports. This field can be found in Reports | Design - School | Courses For Student | AssociatedCourses.
CTF

CTF Updates for A_COMP

Applicable to schools in England and Wales only

Routines | Data Out | CTF | Export CTF
Routines | Data In | CTF | Import CTF

Assessment data that is imported or exported via CTF has been updated to adhere to changes made by the DfE and Welsh Government for the 2017/18 academic year.

Discover

Additional Pre-defined Graphs Provided for use with SIMS Interventions

Additional graph definitions have been provided for users with suitable permissions to run SIMS Interventions. These graph definitions are available from the Pastoral button and are called:

- Student Totals by Interventions
- Student Outcomes by Intervention
- Student Outcomes by Overview.

End of Key Stage (England)

Update to Resources for Spring 2017

To address the statutory responsibilities for schools to report end of Key Stage information, the existing Key Stage wizards have been updated to align with official government guidance and assessment reporting arrangements for 2017. These resources are provided via the Assessment Manager and Performance Analysis Resource Kit (AMPARK). For more information on the updated AMPARK resources, please refer to the AMPARK 7.174 release note, which can be on the My Account website (https://myaccount.capita-cs.co.uk/hot-topics/AMPARK).

Examinations Organiser

Cloning QNs from the Previous Academic Year

Applicable to schools in England only

Tools | Examinations | PI Setup

It is now possible to clone QN (formerly referred to as QAN) codes used in the previous academic year and carry them over to the next year. This removes the need to import a Performance Measures file containing a large number of QNs that are not relevant to your curriculum. It also ensures that out-of-date or surplus QNs are not carried over from one year to the next. When new QNs are required in school, they can now be added individually.

Managing Examinations Data in SIMS

Applicable to schools in England only

Tools | Examinations | Manage Performance Indicator

With the introduction of the cloning of QNs from the previous academic year functionality, schools can now manage their own examinations data.
Removal of the Import Performance Measures File Functionality

Applicable to schools in England only

Tools | Examinations | Import Qualification Data

Schools in England are no longer required to import a Performance Measures file provided by Capita SIMS.

Fees Billing

Password Protecting Fees Financial Documents Sent via Email

Tools | Fees Billing | Parameters - Billing

The Billing panel now contains the Password Protect PDF Documents check box. When selected, all bills, statements and receipts sent via email will require the recipient to enter their Payer Reference before they can open the file.

FMS

New Income and Expenditure Source Analysis Report

Reports | CFR | IE Source Analysis Report

This report is an enhanced version of the existing IE report and provides the Central and Local values as well as the Actual. This is useful for Maintained schools that use a combination of central and local funding.

Charge Account Invoice Payments

FMS can now be used to create a charge account with one or more charge cards linked. This enables users to record Accounts Payable transactions (invoices and credit notes) against a charge account, and manage the reconciliation and payment of these transactions.

New Charge Account Report

Reports | Accounts Payable | Payments | Charge Account Transactions Report

This report produces a list of Charge Account payments and includes both paid and unpaid invoices and credit notes.

Consistent Financial Reporting

There are no major changes to the CFR report this year. The financial year details in the report have been updated.

National Insurance 2017/2018

National Insurance calculations have been updated to reflect recent changes by HMRC.

InTouch

Transition to New SMS Supplier

As part of our continued commitment to enhancing our InTouch service, we have been undergoing a project to review customer change requests to help prioritise future projects.

We are pleased to announce that we will be moving InTouch SMS messaging to PageOne from the SIMS Spring release. Further communications and information will be available as we approach release.

Lesson Monitor

SIMS Interventions Pupil/Student Identification Column

Tools | Setups | Attendance Setup | Module Setup Focus | Attendance (or Lesson Monitor)

An additional pupil/student identification column (Interventions) is now available in several areas of Attendance and Lesson Monitor. This new column displays the number of interventions with which a pupil/student is associated and hover help displays the intervention details applicable on the selected date.

Reporting

Enhancements to the Reporting Dictionary

Reports | Design Report

The Destination expected start date field has been added to the reporting dictionary (via the School node in the Person | Student focus).
For schools in England, the Retake field has been renamed Non Funded (via the AssociatedCourses sub-report in the School | Courses For Student focus). It remains as Retake for schools in Wales and Northern Ireland.

For Independent schools, additional nodes for Nationality and Passport and Tier 4 Details have been added to the reporting dictionary (via the Ethnic/Cultural node in the Person | Student focus). Tier 4 Details includes the new Has Tier 4 details and Place of birth fields. Existing Tier 4 fields no longer used by SIMS have been moved to the Obsolete Tier 4 node, which is located beneath the Nationality and Passport node.

For users of SIMS Interventions, the Session Notes field has been added to the reporting dictionary (via the Intervention sub-report in the Person | Student focus).

New Pre-Defined Report - Admission Register (Roll Book) 2017

Applicable to schools in England only

Report | Run Report

The Admission Register (Roll Book) 2017 report has been added to the pre-defined reports list (via Focus | Student). This report includes the new Destination Expected Start Date field.

For Maintained schools and Academies, the DfE FSM Ever 6 @ Spring Census 2017 report has been added to the pre-defined reports list (via Focus | Student).

Intervention Related Fields Available from the Reporting Dictionary

Reports | Design Report

Intervention-specific fields have been provided in the reporting dictionary, enabling their inclusion in user-defined reports. The range of fields available depend on the report focus (Student, Applicant, Staff, Contact and Agent).

School Census Summer 2017 Return

School Census Summer 2017 Return Dates

Routines | Statutory Returns | School Census

Census Date: 18/05/2017
Age at date: 31/08/2016

Data Items New to the Summer Return

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

The following new data items are collected in the return.

- Ethnic/Cultural panel items:
  - Nationality
  - Country of Birth
  - First Language is collected in the Summer return for the first time for Nursery schools.

- The UPRN (Unique Property Reference Number) displayed below the address details in the Addresses panel once the address has been selected and validated.

- Termly attendance is collected in the Summer return for the first time for Special schools.

Data Items Removed from the Summer Return

Focus | Pupil (or Student) | Pupil (or Student) Details - Welfare panel

In Care is no longer collected in the Summer return.

Attendance for Special Schools

Routines | Statutory Return | School Census

From the date of the School Census Spring 2017 Return, attendance data is collected for Special schools on a termly basis rather than annual.

The collection dates are consistent with other school phases, e.g. 01/01/2017 to 16/04/2017.
SIMS Activities

SIMS Activities does not form part of the SIMS 2017 Spring Release.

For information on the latest release of SIMS Activities, please refer to the SIMS Activities Newsfeed notification, which is available from the My Account website (https://myaccount.capita-cs.co.uk/Notifications/sims-activities-newsfeed-su/).

SIMS Core

Destination Expected Start Date Added to the Pupil/Student and the Leavers Record

Applicable to Maintained schools in England, Independent schools and International schools only

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

The Destination Expected Start Date field has been added to the School History panel on the pupil/student record and the pupil/student leavers routine.

Renaming of the Interventions Panel on the Behaviour Management Page

Focus | Behaviour Management | Student Behaviour

To avoid confusion with the new SIMS Interventions functionality, the Interventions panel on the Behaviour Management page has been renamed Initiatives.

Provision of Additional Lookups

Tools | Lookups | Maintain

For schools in England, the following Ethnic Data Source lookups have been set to inactive:
- Ascribed by the current school
- Ascribed by the previous school
- Other.

For schools in England, the following Italian First Language extended lookup codes have been set to inactive:
- ITAA - Italian (Any other)
- ITAN - Italian (Neapolitan)
- ITAS - Italian (Sicilian).

Any pupil/students who already have these lookup codes assigned will be set to the main ITA - Italian lookup code.

For Independent schools, lookups have been added for the following areas:
- Tier 4 Region
- Tier 4 Visa Type
- Tier 4 Visa Status
- Tier 4 Evidence
- Tier 4 Course
- Tier 4 Category
- Tier 4 Reason.

Relocation of Tier 4 Information

Applicable to Independent schools only

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

The method of recording Tier 4 information has changed. This functionality can now be accessed by clicking the Tier 4 Details item in the Links panel. Previously, this information was recorded in the Add Student Nationality dialog (on the pupil/student record) and the Add Applicant Nationality dialog (on the applicant record).
The Tier 4 Details page enables the recording and maintenance of the following information:

- Basic Tier 4 information, such as Place of Birth (via the Basic Details panel).
- Immigration details, including multiple and historical Visa and Confirmation of Acceptance for Studies (CAS) records. A number of fields have been added to help meet Tier 4 requirements (via the Immigration History panel).
- Any reports sent to the Home Office with regards to a change in situation of a Tier 4 pupil/student, e.g. a change in Visa, failed exams, etc. (via the Home Office Reporting panel).

**SIMS ID *NEW***

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 2017 Spring Release. For more information, please visit the SIMS ID product page on the Capita SIMS website (http://www.capita-sims.co.uk/simsid).

**SIMS Interventions *NEW***

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.

**SIMS Services Manager**

The SIMS 2017 Spring Release does not include an update to SIMS Services Manager and it does not provide the facility to install the product.

If SSM is not currently installed, the latest version is available from SIMS Release Download Links and Product Information in the Notifications area on My Account (https://myaccount.capita-cs.co.uk/Notifications/SIMS-Release-Download-Links/).

The current version ensures compatibility between SIMS and SSM, as well as products that make use of SSM.

For customers that centrally host SSM, please refer to the most recent manual SSM update, which is available from SIMS Release Download Links and Product Information in the Notifications area on My Account (https://myaccount.capita-cs.co.uk/Notifications/SIMS-Release-Download-Links/).

**Teacher app**

**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 Spring Release can be used alongside the following versions of SIMS:

- SIMS 2017 Spring Release (SIMS 7.174)
- SIMS 2016 Autumn Release (SIMS 7.172).

Please note that the Teacher app does not form part of the SIMS 2017 Spring Release. For information on new features and enhancements, please refer to the What’s New section of the SIMS Teacher app Help Centre, which is available by clicking the Help Centre button in the app.
iOS Updates

The SIMS Teacher app for iOS has been updated to provide additional information for pupil/students on their attendance history, including:

- the ability to see which lesson/sessions each pupil/student has attended for each day (via the student details screen)
- an attendance summary for the current academic year (year to date).

Additionally, the student details will include:

- the number of late marks for each pupil/student
- the total amount of time recorded late
- whether the pupil/student is on report.

The Teacher app Programme of Study assessment has also been updated to support the customisation of the grade set, including colours, grades and descriptions.

Revision History

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Version</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7.174 – 1.0</td>
<td>Initial release. Addition of the Transition to New SMS Supplier item in the InTouch section. Update to the Changes to Validation Rules item in the Attendance Collection (Wales) section. Update to the Enhancements to the Reporting Dictionary item in the Reporting section. Update to the Destination Expected Start Date Added to the Pupil/Student and the Leavers Record item in the SIMS Core section.</td>
<td>18/01/2017</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.174 – 1.0</td>
<td></td>
<td>23/01/2017</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>