

SIMS 7 Combined Release Notes

SIMS 2023 Summer release (version 7.212)

NOTE 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.

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.

You can access the Ideas portal via the [support portal](#).

NOTE: 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.

You can access the satisfaction survey:

- SIMS 7: Tools | SIMS Satisfaction Survey
- Online: <https://www.ess-sims.co.uk/user-survey>
- [Support Portal](#) (You do not need to log in to the support portal to access the satisfaction survey.)

SIMS 7 Combined Release Notes

SIMS 2023 Summer release (version 7.212)

SIMS Upgrade Support

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: For more support on performing the SIMS Upgrades please refer to the SIMS Upgrade support article.

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 SP3.

SQL2019 Update

The SQL Migration tool has been updated to upgrade SIMS, FMS, Discover, Partnership Xchange, SOLUS, and InTouch run to SQL 2019 and Windows Server 2019.

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.

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: 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.

SIMS 7 Combined Release Notes

SIMS 2023 Summer release (version 7.212)

Important Information Regarding the Upgrade of SIMS and Discover

IMPORTANT: 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 Discover auto-deployment settings start later than the SIMS auto-deployment start time plus the timeout.

Products		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.

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.

SIMS 7 Combined Release Notes

SIMS 2023 Summer release (version 7.212)

Permissions

The permissions spreadsheet, which lists all permissions relating to SIMS 7.212, 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 7.212 SIMS Permissions Spreadsheet (KB0036819).

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 notes have been removed.







Census Release Notes

Please refer to the Census Returns Manager page for information on the new features, enhancements, and fixes.

Refer to, [School Census Summer 2023 Return and Configuration](#).

SIMS 7 Release Notes

Each functional area displays a set of icons indicating the school type(s) to which the content relates. Icons that indicate a link to the applicable handbook(s) and New Feature videos are also displayed.

-  Content applicable to English Primary and Northern Ireland Primary schools
-  Content applicable to English Secondary and Northern Ireland Secondary schools
-  Content applicable to Welsh Primary schools
-  Content applicable to Welsh Secondary schools
-  Content applicable to independent schools
-  Link to the applicable handbook(s)
-  Link to a New Feature video

Admissions

IN

Prospective Pupils label changed from Gender to Sex ^{NEW}

Applicable to independent schools in England & Wales

Routines | Admissions | Enquiry | Prospective Pupils

Updating the label as Sex instead of Gender in the Prospective Pupils area allows for consistency with the rest of SIMS7.

SIMS 7 Combined Release Notes

SIMS 2023 Summer release (version 7.212)

Examinations Organiser

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

Manually adding Qualification Numbers ^{NEW}

Applicable to schools in England, Wales, and Northern Ireland

Tools | Examinations | Add Qualification Data

The Discount Code and Qualification Type fields have been updated with smart search so you can enter a partial code to find the needed one. The Awarding body field has been sorted by description to improve searchability.

New Candidate Statement of Results report with Component results ^{NEW}

Applicable to schools in England and Wales only

Tools | Examinations | Candidate Statement of Results Report

Exam officers can generate a printable report with component results (combined exam and component results) which can be provided to students on the exam results day.

Fees Billing

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

Generating Letters and Update of Communication Log ^{NEW}

Applicable to Independent schools

Fees Manager | Fees Clerk | Receipt Clerk

New Debtor letter templates have been created to send out to chase up outstanding debts with the registered Bill Payer/s.

School Census Autumn Returns (Statutory Returns)

EP **ES**

Key Dates for the School Census Autumn 2023 Return ^{NEW}

Applicable to English schools

Census Date: 05/10/2023

Attendance Collection from 10/04/2023 to 31/07/2023

Exclusions collected from 01/01/2023 to 31/07/2023

Alternative Provision Placements collected from 18/05/2023 to 05/10/2023

Funding and Monitoring collected from 01/08/2023 to 05/10/2023

Learning Aims and collected from 01/08/2022 to 05/10/2022

Free School Meals collected from 19/05/2023 to 05/10/2023

Reports to include Alternative Provision: Co House and Postcode ^{NEW}

Applicable to schools in England

Routines | Statutory Returns | School Census

AP Companies House No and AP Postcode information is now included in all Census Returns to meet DfE information requirements.

SIMS 7 Combined Release Notes

SIMS 2023 Summer release (version 7.212)

School Workforce Census for England (SWC) - Statutory Returns

EP **ES**

Key Dates for the School Workforce Census Autumn 2023 Return **NEW**

Applicable to English schools

Census Date - 02/11/2023

Absence Start Date - 01/09/2022

Absence End Date - 31/8/2023

Continuous Contract Start Date - 01/09/2022

Continuous Contract End Date - 02/11/2023

Personnel7/SWC 2023 Business Support Staff **NEW**

Applicable to schools in England

Tools | Lookups | Maintain | Search Staff - Service Term - SWR Post

There is a new staff SWR Post of School Business Professional (SBP).

Personnel7/SWC 2023 Additional Subjects added for qualification **NEW**

Applicable to schools in England

Tools | Lookups | Maintain | Subject Qualified

Users can include additional subjects for the staff qualification SWC Returns reports.

SWC 2023: New data item Senior Leadership Team **NEW**

Applicable to schools in England

Focus | Person | Staff | Employment Details

A new Senior Leadership Team (SLT) grid option has been added.

SWC Return New detailed report for Senior Leadership Team **NEW**

Applicable to schools in England

Routines | Statutory Returns | School Workforce Census

A new detailed report for the senior leadership team has been added to the SWC return.

Reporting Dictionary update **NEW**

Applicable to schools in England

Reports | Design Report

Senior leadership team items have been added to the reporting dictionary.

PDO Report update **NEW**

Applicable to schools in England

Routines | Data Out | Person data output

Senior leadership team items have been added to the Person Data Output report.

Pay details Panel update **NEW**

Applicable to schools in England

Routines | Statutory returns | School workforce census | Pay details

Non-Leadership and Leadership (non-Teachers) section is now titled, Other Staff.

SIMS 7 Combined Release Notes

SIMS 2023 Summer release (version 7.212)

Sickness absences update ^{NEW}

Applicable to schools in England

Routines | Statutory returns | School workforce census | Pay details

Error 4990 will be triggered when the sickness absence has 0 working days lost.

School Workforce Annual Census (SWAC) for Wales - Statutory Returns

WP **WS**

Key Dates

Applicable to schools in Wales only

Census Date: 07/11/2023

Vacancies that opened or closed from 01/09/2022 to 31/08/2023 of the academic year before the census date, including vacancies that were not filled.

School teachers who left the profession or took retirement (early or at normal age) from 01/09/2022 to 31/08/2023 of the academic year before the census date.

Supply Staff - Aggregated level data for the period 01/09/2022 to 31/08/2023 of the academic year prior to the census date.

Post-16 Return for Wales – Statutory Returns

WP **WS**

Dates have been updated in the Census Details Survey and Collection period for the 2023 Return.

Students

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

Inclusion of Dietary Needs into Bulk Update ^{NEW}

Applicable to all schools

Routines | Student | Bulk Update

Users and Data administrators can now use the Bulk update tool to perform bulk updates to the dietary needs of multiple students.

New Component Results panel added to Exams Quick Links ^{NEW}

Applicable to schools in England and Wales

Routines | Student | Student Details | Quick Links | Exams

Exam officers and data managers can use the new quick links to review the component results of a student for easy cross-referencing and data validation.