

The SIMS logo is a green square with the word "SIMS" in white, bold, sans-serif capital letters.

SIMS

helping
schools
inspire

The background of the top section is a photograph of a young person with short dark hair, wearing a dark jacket with thin white vertical stripes over a red shirt. They are sitting at a piano, looking down at their hands as they play. The piano is white, and the background shows a window with a grid pattern.

SIMS Enhanced Support
Here when *you need us*

Release Notification

Secondary Schools and Academies

2015 Autumn SIMS Release

SIMS & FMS Autumn Upgrade 2015

We are pleased to inform you that the SIMS 7.166 and FMS 6.166 Autumn release is now available for you to download from SOLUS2 or SOLUS3. This is an essential upgrade in order to:

- Complete the Spring School Census 2016 (for England)
- Complete the Spring School Plasc 2016 (for Wales)
- Complete the Annual CES School Census

NOTE: Before upgrading to this release, we recommend that the Autumn 15 School Census has been accepted by your local authority or, in the case of academies, your returning body.

SIMS Autumn 2015 versions

SIMS:	Version - 7.166.38	DB Version - 3.62.261
FMS:	Version - 6.166.342	DB Version - 6.93.342
Discover:	Version - 7.166	

SIMS, FMS and Discover Upgrade Instructions

Instructions have been made available on our Capita ESS website for advice on how to run the SIMS, FMS and Discover upgrades. Please click [here](#) to access.

Deploying a SIMS, FMS and Discover Upgrade using SOLUS2
Deploying a SIMS, FMS and Discover Upgrade using SOLUS 3

*We strongly recommend that you upgrade to at least SOLUS3 version 3.9 prior to upgrading both SIMS and FMS to take advantage of improved stability. Guidance on upgrading SOLUS3 has also been provided on our Capita ESS website. Please click [here](#) to access.

For users of **InTouch**, a release has been made available to ensure compatibility with the SIMS release. Details on how to obtain and apply this update will be distributed to you via a separate email.

For those schools with **HOSTED SIMS**, we will carry out the upgrade process. You will receive a separate email communication providing further details.

SIMS Autumn Release 7.166

This SIMS release brings enhancements across key areas of the SIMS functionality. For full details regarding this release please refer to the Latest Release Information via the Documentation link on your Home page within SIMS and for FMS via Help | FMS Documentation | What's New in this release. Alternatively, you can access the SIMS Autumn 2015 Release Notes via [Notifications on My Account](#).

Secondary Assessment

- **KS3 Programmes of Study** functionality has now been incorporated into the SIMS Autumn 2015 release. To make use of this new functionality, the following **two files** will need to be imported:

- PoS KS3 Aspects.xml
- Assessment Mapping Tool Secondary.xml.

After upgrade on entering the Assessment area a prompt will be provided to import. Alternatively, the files can be imported via the AMPA routine Routines | Data In | Assessment | Import. Some schools may have previously imported the functionality manually via Patch 20849.

- Enhancements to the **KS3 Programmes of Study** include the option to:
 - **Show/hide:** Show **School Expectations Only** or Show **Statutory Statements Only**
 - Secondary schools can select **NC statements** from **Y1 to Y6** if the PoS Tracking Templates England 2015.xml file has been imported.
 - Select additional parameters for data entry from: **National Curriculum** (existing), **Topic Overview** (shows all School Expectations across various subjects and strands selected, and **Summative Overview** shows all the overall aspects for both subjects and subjects and strands from the summative assessment columns to display in a single view.



Further details regarding the new PoS functionality can be found by clicking on the documentation link included within the [SIMS Autumn 2015 Release Note](#) accessible via My Account or within the Life Without Levels handbook via SIMS | Documentation | Assessment.

- **NEW Secondary KS4 resources** have been created to allow you to track and monitor **real-time student attainment and progress** and include **Progress 8** and **Attainment 8** calculations based on both **existing A* to G grades** and the **new 9 to 1 levels** as they are introduced into the curriculum. These new resources include:
 - **Comprehensive marksheets** (linked to an array of new aspects)
 - **Output analysis reporting** via SIMS | Reports
 - **Discover graphs**.You will need to import these new resources. For further information please access the [SIMS Assessment - Launch of New KS4 Secondary resources via my account](#).
- An update to the **Estimated Attainment 8 Values** (and Progress 8 values) used in the **School Report** to reflect the new values used in the **2014 Summer Exam Results table** for 2014/2015 academic year.

Enhancements to **Course Manager** include:

- Change to **QAN Description**
- Inclusion of the **Retake** Field in the Reporting Dictionary
- Viewing of **Additional Key Course Information** on the Student Details Page

Enhancements to **SEN** include:

- Within the **Needs Table**:
 - **Rename**; Needs to **Current Needs**
 - **Start Date** column; displays start dates which were previously available only from the Reporting Dictionary
 - **New Report** button which enables you to run the **SEN Needs Report** which displays all current and historical needs of a selected pupil/student and ranks them as of a given date.
- An **alert** will now **appear** when wishing to **delete** a **Current Need Type**
- Improvements to **Needs History log** is now **read-only** and shows **Needs** that have **ended**. Other enhancements to this log have also taken place.
- When the ranking of a need is **edited**, the **changes** are now **displayed** in the **Needs Change log**.

Spring School Census 2016 - 21st January 2016

- **Childcare Enhancements**
 - The ability to **record** and **maintain** **Childcare Provisions** which are **provided** or **signposted** through the year via **SIMS | Focus | School Details**
 - A new **Detailed Report** to show **Childcare Provisions**
 - **Two new Lookups** have been added: **Childcare Site** and **Childcare Signposted**.
- **Early Years Pupil Premium Eligibility Enhancements** in **SIMS** include:
 - A **change** from **Update Hours** for **Early Years** and **Hours** for **Early Years** via **Tools | Statutory Return Tools** has been changed to **Update Early Years**.
 - The **existing** **Hours** for **Early Years** **panel** has been **renamed** to **Early Years** and **includes** the following **new columns**: **Basis** for **EYPPE Eligibility** and **In Care**.
 - A new **Detailed Report** entitled **Early Years Report** is available within the drop-down list.
 - **Six new Lookups** have been added to **specify** the **basis** for **EYPPE eligibility**: **Not eligible**, **Economic**, **Other**, **Economic and Other**, and **Unknown**.

Catholic Education Services (CES) 2016

12 January 2016 for schools in **Wales**

21 January 2016 for schools in **England**.

Please note that **categories** for **pupil/student religion** and a **religion code** have been added and **must** be recorded.

InTouch enhancements include:

- The ability to **send messages** where the **associated template** already contains text in the message body
- **Changes** to the **User** and **House** icons for **Auto-Forwarded** messages
- **Replies** from parents to **Unexplained Absence messages** can now be **added** to the **log** from the Unexplained Absence Management page so that details can be viewed in Pupil/Teacher view.
- **Scheduled Send Date** is **displayed** when reviewing a **queued message**

SIMS Learning Gateway (SLG) enhancements include:

- A new **green progress bar** on the **My Homework Timeline** panel in SIMS to show where homework for one or more students has been handed in - as a percentage. The task name, number of tasks assigned and the number of tasks handed in will also be displayed when hovering over the bar.
- The **SLG Report timer job** and permissions job have been introduced to aid efficiencies in publishing reports.

FMS Autumn Release 6.166

Key enhancements for this release include:

- The ability to **Hide and Unhide Cost Centre Ledger Code Combinations** via Tools | General Ledger Setup | Tab 6: C/Centre Ledger Code Links
- **Modification to Default Bank Code** in Cash Book Journal and **VAT Reimbursement Entry** via Focus | General Ledger | Manual Journal Processing - Cash Book Journal Entry
- **Enhanced reports** in the new reporting engine. Over the past several releases we have been enhancing the existing, and adding new reports utilising the new reporting engine within FMS. Enhanced reports within this release include:
 - Audit | Audit Trail
 - Audit | Journal Audit Trail
 - Chart of Accounting List
- The **retirement** of the following **old format reports** (as these have been available in the new reporting engine for some time):
 - Chart of Accounts Review
 - Salary Projections

Full details are available from [FMS | Help | FMS Documentation | What's New](#) in this release. If you would like a full listing of all the reports available ask your Customer Service Manager for further details.

Further support

For full details regarding this release please refer to the Latest Release Information via the Documentation link on your Home page within SIMS and for FMS via Help | FMS Documentation | What's New in this release. Alternatively, you can access the SIMS Autumn 2015 Release Notes via [Notifications on My Account](#).

Should you require further support or information regarding the upgrade, please contact the Service Desk.

- **Service Desk:** 0844 893 8000*
- **Finance Service Desk:** 0845 607 6275*. For finance and personnel related queries
- Use our new **Live Web Chat** accessible; click on the '*How can we help*' link at the top right-hand side of the following [webpage](#).
- Raise a case on [My Account](#)
- **Email** esd@capita.co.uk. Please provide your contact details for an analyst to report back to you.