

SIMS School Autumn Census 5th October 2023

Dear Colleague,

We would like to draw your attention to the following important school census information which is informed by current guidance from the [DfE](#).

Any further updates will be shared via email. School ICT customers can also check the news section at <https://www.schoolicts.co.uk/latest-news/> .

Introduction

Requirements:

- You must be using SIMS.net version **7.212**
- **Consolidated Database Patch 2 (CDP2 - ID: 28383)** must be applied to your database. This must be applied **before Fileset 2504**

UPDATE – Please see the latest guidance on Patches and filesets from ESS regarding the school census.

Current Fileset for the Census is 2505- For schools in England with a sixth form, this fileset must be imported to avoid the DfE rejecting the XML return file. It is also beneficial to those schools with pupils attending alternative provision.

Also CDP3 28462 for Post 16 only. CDP4 28506 is in development- please see below for the relevance of applying this patch

CDP4 28506 is in development and will incorporate all fixes applied in CDP3 but will also correct the following: We will release as soon as it becomes available.

Issue 8: Incorrect school arranged alternative provision data (School Census England)

Our School Census Autumn 2023 application is operating correctly in that where a pupil leaves the school and is admitted to another school before returning to schools, the date of admission is being reported as the date when the pupil returned to the school.

However, it is operating incorrect in that the original date of admission is being used for deciding whether the AP placement data is reported.

This issue triggers DfE validation error 2370 (The pupils entry date is invalid for a school arranged alternative provision (AP) placement)

Solution:

The patch will ensure that under the circumstances described above the date the pupil returned to the school is used for deciding whether the AP placement data is reported.

Issue 9: DOA (Date of Admission) reported for leavers in School Census Autumn 2023 is that for the school when it should be that for the academy that replaced it (**School Census England**)

The wrong DOA (Date of Admission) for leavers is being reported in School Census Autumn 2023 when the school became an academy with a new DfE number during the summer term and pupils left the school after it become an academy but before the end of the summer term. In these circumstances our census application is reporting the DOA at the school when it should be reporting the DOA at the new academy.

The issue will trigger validation error 2510 (For pupil no longer on roll in the first summer half term the attendance sessions possible is missing or invalid).

Solution:

The patch will ensure that in the circumstances described above the DOA for the pupils is reported as the date the school became an academy. This will prevent validation error 2510 being triggered in these circumstances.

Issue 10 Working days lost for an absence between zero and half a day is being reported as zero in the census return file, which triggers DfE validation error 4990 (**SWC England**)

-
-
- Validation error 4990: Where Last Day of a sickness absence is provided then the number of Working Days Lost must be greater than zero.

Our SWC application is continuing to calculate workdays lost for an absence between zero and half a day as zero. This was fine when we were preventing working days lost of zero being reported in the census, but now that we report zero working days lost in the census return, we must use another method for ensure that absence between zero and half a day is **not** reported.

Solution:

Instead of relying on rounding down to exclude fractions of a day that must not be reported in the census, we will provide a fix to directly exclude them from being reported in the census.

Issue 11: Pupils taught in year 13 for academic year 2023/24 after repeated year 12 for COVID-19 catch-up in academic year 2022/23 (**School Census England**)

Where a pupil is being taught in year 13 for academic year 2023/24 but was taught in year 12 for academic year 2022/23, having repeated year 12 for COVID-19 catch-up, the pupils learning aims are not included in School Census Autumn 2023.

The absence of a pupils learning aims will trigger validation errors 1887, 1993 and 2870 for that pupil.

Solution:

Clicking on repeating a year for COVID19 reasons may well work-around this issue, but we cannot guarantee the accuracy of the resulting learning aims data reported for the

pupils. If the school can use the detail reports to check the accuracy of the resulting learning aims data, they may be willing to take the risk and use the work-around.

Apply this patch will ensure that the learning aims data is reported for pupils without taking the risk inherent in the work-around.

CDP3 28462 is now available - applicable to Post 16 schools only

Updated 07 Oct 01:10 CDP 3 for SIMS Summer Release 2023 (England) (id #cdp3) - Available

This third CDP (Consolidated Database Patch) for the SIMS Summer Release 2023 (database patch 28462) was made available via SOLUS 3 on the 6th October at 15:40.

When compared to CDP 2, CDP 3 only adds benefit for schools in England with a sixth form where external exams are involved with the achievement of post-16 prior attainment in Maths and English.

As you may know, at one point we thought that we would need to extend this CDP 3 to deal with the issue regarding the DfE not wanting any reporting of Traineeship for Post16 Learning Aims and Programmes that started after the 31/07/2033, but I am now pleased to confirm that this issue will be dealt with by Fileset 2505 and that CDP 3 is only needed for the relatively small number of schools with the prior attainment issue described above. Of course, it will do no harm if applied by other schools who do not need it if they have already applied CDP 2.

Applicability

- For schools in Wales, this fileset is the same as Filesets 2502, 2503 and 2504. In other words, this fileset is fine to import, but will be of no interest if any of the Filesets from 2502 to 2504 have already been imported.
- For schools in England **without a sixth form**, this fileset is fine to import, but will be of no benefit where Fileset 2504 has already been imported, **unless** the school is concerned about the DfE correction to validation **error 2392**, which detects a pupil's alternative provision placements beyond full time.
- **For schools in England with a sixth form, this fileset must be imported to avoid the DfE rejecting the XML return file.**

Please check the patch is applied before importing Fileset 2504

NOTE: The Fileset ID and the latest applied CDP ID are displayed in the census screen browser header.

NOTE: A message will also be displayed in the **Census Communications** panel warning the census file is not suitable for submission until the fileset has been updated. Validation rule error 1 will also show on the **Validation Errors Summary** until the fileset has been updated.

Census Return for Autumn 2023 Term [Fileset ID: 2501 imported on 29/08/2023] [Consolidated Database Patch ID: 28323 applied on 10/08/2023]

New Search Open Delete Browse Next Previous Copy

Term: Autumn 2023 Census Folder: C:\SIMS\Census

Security message for Reports: This report contains sensitive information.

Census Communications: Support Unit Newsfeed Errors & Resolutions Handbooks DfE Guidance

Message: Do not upload a return to the DfE if validation error 1 appears.

Report

Validation Errors Summary Return Validated - 423 Validation rules failed (Errors - 379; Queries - 44)

Student Search: Enter Student Name, DOB (YYYY-MM-DD) or UPN for student filter

Error Search: ALL Total of displayed rows: 423 To resolve an error, click in row to navigate to the relevant screen

Type	Sequence	Message	Location	Solution
F	1	This is an unofficial SIMS Alpha of the DfE validation		The full release of DfE validation files will be made available to schools as
F	1500	UPN missing.	Name: Alsop, Sabrina Date of Birth: 2007-08-05, Female UPN:	# Go to Focus Student Student Details and add or issue a UPN.

Accessing the Return

Routines | Statutory Returns | School Census

SIMS .net: Green Abbey School

ocus Reports Routines Tools Window Help

Back

Mr A Black Home Page 15/09/2023

My Timeline

Selected Academic Year 2023/2024

School Census

School Workforce Census

School Bulletins

Census Dates

Census Date	05/10/2023		
Item	Date From	Date to	Notes
Attendance	10/04/2023	31/07/2023	
Exclusions	01/01/2023	31/07/2023	2 Terms collected
Alternative Provision	18/05/2023	05/10/2023	
FAM (Funding and Monitoring)	01/08/2023	05/10/2023	
Learning Aims	01/08/2022	05/10/2023	
Free School Meals*	19/05/2023	05/10/2023	
*Only collected for on roll pupils not leavers			

DfE Submission Deadline

Wednesday 1st November

Your Local Authority may have an earlier deadline, please contact them for further details.

New Data Items

Sex and Gender Identity

The **gender** data item has been renamed to the new **sex** data item. The change from gender to sex is being rolled out across all DfE collections over the next year or so.

The sex data item is a statutory value which identifies the sex of a person as assigned at birth and is recognised in law on a mandatory basis.

The gender identity data item was introduced in 2022/2023 so schools, children's homes, local authorities and other institutions can record gender identity for local use, should they wish to. The DfE will not collect this data item.

Documentation to Aid with Completing the Return

We have uploaded all the latest ESS guidance for preparing and producing the return to the customer portals, along with our census quick guides.

Please see the links below to access all the latest information.

turn IT on Link:

- [Customer Portal](#)

School ICT Links:

- [Secondary Guidance](#)
- [Primary Guidance](#)
- [Post 16 guidance](#)
- [Guidance on Dates of birth and Curriculum Years](#)

Known Issues

Populate from exams routine in Update Post-16 Prior Attainment (ID #exams)

The populate from exams routine in **Tools | Statutory Returns Tools | Update Post-16 Prior Attainment** is operating as intended in that it is not attempting to calculate whether attainment was achieved by end of year 11 when an 'external exam' is involved. However, ESS are investigating a case where the data was manually entered for the previous year and is not being 'pulled through' for the current current year.

ESS initial investigation suggests that a consolidated database patch (CDP 3) will be needed to resolve this issue.

We will keep you informed of how we progress with this case, but for the moment you may find that prior attainment is not being calculated in the situation described above. Such an issue is more likely to be significant for a sixth form college than any other type of school.

Post 16 schools

Known Issues

ESS believe that Fileset 2505 will be a 'must have' for schools with sixth forms and that its import will be of no harm nor benefit to other schools that have already imported Fileset 2504, except where they have multiple open alternative provision placements for a pupil.

Validation Error 2392: Pupil has multiple open placements where the attendance pattern is not a valid combination. It is expected the pupil would be PT at each open placement.

Fixed by the DfE via changes to their validation coding.

This fix will ease confusion for schools with multiple open alternative provisions placements for a pupil.

Validation Error 2759: Traineeship must not be present for learning aims which started after 31 July of the current year.

Fixed by SIMS via changes to our XML coding included in Fileset 2505

This fix is a 'must have' for schools with sixth forms.

Validation Error 2912: Traineeship must not be present for programme aims which started after 31 July of the current year.

Fixed by SIMS via changes to our XML coding included in 2505

This fix is a 'must have' for schools with sixth forms.

Validation Error 5165: Traineeship is missing or invalid for learning aims that started prior 1 August 2023.

Fixed by the DfE via changes to their validation coding.- will be removed in COLLECT

This fix will ease confusion for schools with sixth forms.

Validation Error 5166: Traineeship can not be true for a T Level or T Level transition programme which started prior to 1 August 2023.

Fixed by the DfE via changes to their validation coding.- Will be removed in COLLECT

This fix will ease confusion for schools with sixth forms.

Data Items Included in this Return

Full details of what is included in each return can be found via [DfE spreadsheet](#).

Training

To see a full schedule of our training offering please click [here](#).

If you have training queries please contact **turn IT on** or **School ICT** (as applicable).

Need further help?

Our Helpdesks are open from 08:00 until 17:00 so please do not hesitate to give us a call or log a ticket and we will help with your query.

turn IT on

Portal: <https://portal.turniton.co.uk/>

Phone number: 01865 597620 - Option 2

Email: mis.support@turniton.co.uk

School ICT

Portal: <https://my.schoolicts.co.uk/>

Phone number: 0345 222 6802 - Option 1

Email: helpdesk@schoolicts.co.uk