

Primary, Nursery, PRUs

& Special Schools

SIMS End of Year Procedures

2024 - 2025

8

Creation of the 2025 - 2026 Academic Year

WARNING:

The procedures must be completed <u>before</u> the start of the new academic year.

It is critical the new academic year is created and the promotion routines run before the old year ends.

These processes determine the year groups and registrations groups into which pupils are placed in the new academic year.

Working In partnership with













Where appropriate for data entry purposes, the graphics used in this document match the training data recommended for use on the course. Where the graphic is an example of what might be expected when using certain areas of the software, the training data may not be an exact match.
This booklet is designed for use with SIMS software version 7.222 and above

Primary, Nursery, PRUs & Special Schools SIMS End of Year Procedures 2024 - 2025

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Introduction

This guidance issues the steps that should be followed to enable a successful transition from one academic year to another. It includes the creation of a new academic year, setting up next year's registration groups and year groups, etc. together with the promotion of pupils from one year into the next.

WARNING: You <u>must</u> complete these procedures <u>before</u> the start of the new academic year.

It is critical the new academic year is created and promotion routines run before the end of the current academic year.

These processes determine the year groups and registration groups into which pupils are placed in the new academic year.

It is recommended to start these processes as early as possible, allowing sufficient time to complete by the start of the new academic year.

SIMS Permissions

The permissions required to carry out the various end of year processes vary. However, users who are members of the **School Administrator** and **Admissions Officer** user groups in System Manager, can carry out all functions in this document. Consult your System Manager if you are unsure whether you have the required permissions.

SIMS Documentation Centre

A wide range of documentation is available from the SIMS Documentation Centre, including handbooks, quick reference sheets and tutorials. Click Documentation (located on the top right-hand side of the SIMS Home Page), select the required category and then select the document you require. Alternatively, use the Search facility to locate the required document.

The ICT Schools Team are available on 01296 383500 Option 1 or email: ictschools@buckinghamshire.gov.uk should you be unable to find the assistance you require.

ICT Schools Team Support

The ICT Schools Team support schools with maintaining correct data and running data routines in SIMS. We are unable to advise on specific pupil issues regarding admissions, attendance codes, correct leaving dates etc.

Buckinghamshire Council SchoolsWeb

Refer to: https://schoolsweb.buckscc.gov.uk/ for the relevant Teams including County Attendance, Children Missing Education, Admissions, Schools Management Support etc.

DfE Statutory Guidance

https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/statutory-guidance-schools

End of Year Check List

Please use the check list to ensure you have worked through the tasks required for end of year.

End of Year Procedure Check List

This section provides a check list of all the actions that form part of the end of year process.

✓	Description/Task
	Ensure SIMS has a backup
	Record changes to teaching and support staff in Personnel
	Review the current pastoral structure
	Create the new academic year
	Set up the new academic year's pastoral structure
	Validate memberships
	Create Pre-admission and Intake groups for new pupils.
	Import Admissions and Transfer Files (ATF)
	Import Common Transfer Files (CTF)
	Check Dates for Part-Time Pupils
	Setting up the promotion mapping for the new academic year
	Record leavers
	Change the Status of Applications to Offered, Accepted or Withdrawn
	Allocate applicants to Registration Groups/Classes
	Create Common Transfer Files (CTF) for leavers and upload to Schools2Schools
	Print class (registration group) lists for the new academic year
	Enter reasons for absence last year (if required)
	Other SIMS Module Processes
Rout	ines After the New Academic Year has Started
	Run: Validate Memberships & Database Diagnostics
	Admit applicants
	Re-admit pupils
	Check for missing marks & unexplained attendance marks for 24/25 academic year
	Official Register for 2024/25
	Part-time pupils – add start & end dates
	Apply part-time "attendance not required" codes to relevant pupils.
	Apply weekly pattern of not required
	Update the Selected Academic Year on the SIMS Home Page
	Import/Export CTF's
	Run Housekeeping Routines
	Update Pupil Premium Indicator for 2025-26
Refer	to Chapter 10

Chapter 1 Create the 2025/26 Academic Year

Introduction

The **Create Academic Year** process defines the start and end dates for each of the school terms and half-term holidays, together with dates for public holidays and staff training days.

Important Notes for SIMS Users During Creation of the new Academic Year

Due to the amount of processing resource required to create an academic year, whilst not essential, it is strongly recommended that all other users log out of SIMS before commencing this process. Continuing to work whilst an academic year is being created is likely to result in error messages.

The process may take a long time because the system creates attendance records for the new academic year.

When creating an academic year, the start date of the first term is deemed to be the first day of the academic year. This may not necessarily be the day that pupils arrive in school; it could be an INSET day, for example. An end date is calculated for 365 days later (even when a leap year).

For **Buckinghamshire schools**, the first day of term should be specified as **01/09/2025** even if pupils are not in attendance.

Any dates within the start and end dates of the academic year that are not term dates or training days, are considered holidays. This prevents the need to manually enter holidays (apart from half-terms and bank holidays).

Promotion into new year groups, etc. occurs automatically on the first day of the first term of the new academic year (providing the promotion process has been carried out).

Before proceeding, please check the following actions have been carried out:

- Ensure your system has a backup.
- Ensure you have details of the new academic year term dates, training days, etc.

Creating the New Academic Year

- 1. Select Routines | School | Academic Year to display the Define an Academic Year Wizard.
- 2. Click Next to display the Define the school working week page.



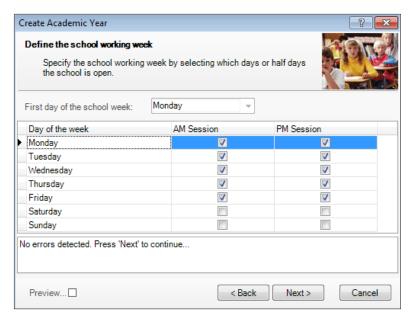
Define the School Working Week

The **First day of the school week** drop-down list is read-only and displays the first day of your school week, as specified when your system was first set up.

 Define the days when the school will be open by selecting the check box(es) adjacent to each required day, including both AM and PM sessions, as required.

AM Session and **PM Session** check boxes are selected by default for Monday through to Friday.

 Click Next, and click Yes to the onscreen prompt, to display the Define the terms and term holidays for the academic year page.



Defining School Term Dates

When entering term dates, the start date is always the date the term starts, even if pupils are not in school on those days.

In Buckinghamshire, all academic years run from the 1st September through to 31st August.

NOTE: The Academic Year Wizard checks the dates provided are valid and do not overlap.

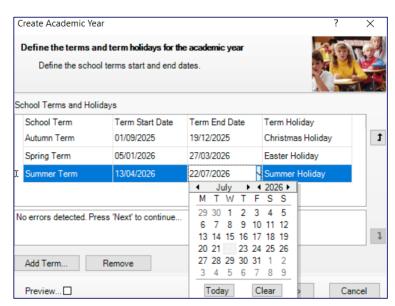
- Term dates should not overlap.
- Half-term holidays should lie within the date range of a term.
- End of term holidays are expected to be more than one day in duration.

Messages relating to any discrepancies are displayed in the bottom area of the wizard.

On the last screen of the Academic Year wizard the summary of the year is displayed.

Term	Start Date	End Date	Term Holiday
Autumn Term	01/09/2025	19/12/2025	Christmas Holiday
Spring Term	05/01/2026	27/03/2026	Easter Holiday
Summer Term	13/04/2026	22/07/2026	Summer Holiday

- Enter the dates for the Autumn,
 Spring and Summer terms by clicking in the applicable Term Start Date and Term End Date fields and entering the dates in dd/mm/yyyy format, or select from the calendar.
 Alternatively, click in the date cell until a down arrow appears, then click the arrow to display a calendar, from which the required date can be selected.
- Each term has a default holiday displayed in the Term Holiday column.



If required, select a different holiday from the drop-down list or overtype the term name, if required.

3. The holiday that follows the term is displayed by default.

Select a different holiday from the **Term Holiday** drop-down list if required.

- 4. Repeat this process for all the default terms displayed, selecting the applicable holiday for each term.
- 5. Any errors are displayed in the lower section of the wizard and must be resolved before you can proceed.
- 6. Once the three term dates are entered, click **Next** to display the **Define the half term holidays** page. If **Next** is greyed out, move the cursor off the last **Term End Date** by pressing the **Tab** key.

Holidays are automatically created for dates in between the term dates entered.

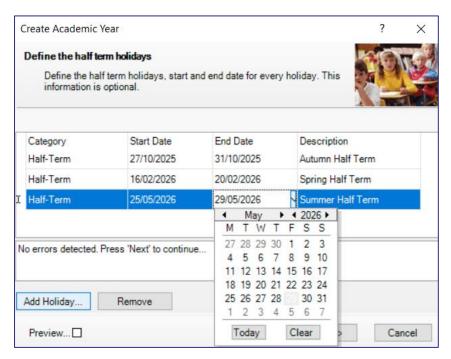
Eg. Where the Spring term ends on 27/03/2026 and the Summer term starts on 13/04/2026, SIMS anticipates the dates in between are holidays.

Defining Half Term Holidays

From the **Define the half term holidays** page, click **Add Holiday** to display the **Half Term Holiday Details** dialog.

Dates for half-term holidays need to be entered manually.

Category	Start Date	End Date	Description
Half-Term	27/10/2025	31/10/2025	Autumn Half Term
Half-Term	16/02/2026	20/02/2026	Spring Half Term
Half-Term	25/05/2026	29/05/2026	Summer Half Term



- 1. Select **Half-Term** from the **Category** drop-down list. Enter the **Start Date** and **End Date** for the half-term holiday in dd/mm/yyyy format. Alternatively, click the **Calendar** and select the required dates.
- Enter a Description for the half-term holiday if required, eg. Autumn Half-Term.
 This description appears in the School Diary.
- 3. Click **OK** to add the half-term holiday.
- 4. **Repeat** steps **1** to **3** to add the Spring and Summer half-term holiday.
- 5. Click **Next** to display the **Define Teacher Training Days** page.

Defining INSET / Teacher Training Days

The **Define teacher training days** page is used to enter any training days where pupils **will not** be attending school. It is advisable to enter any known INSET days at this point.

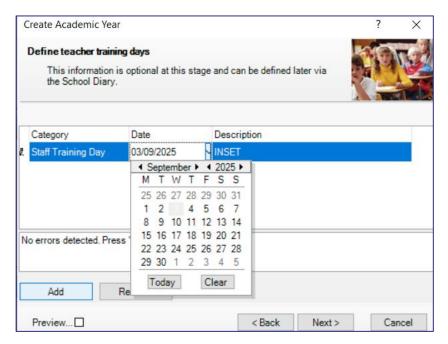
Buckinghamshire LA Maintained schools have the following INSET date:

- Wednesday 3rd September 2025
- The **Four** other dates will be defined by the school

Note: Training dates <u>not known</u> at time of set up, can be added at a later point via:

Routines | School | Edit Academic Year

Category	Date	Description
Staff Training Day	03/09/2025	INSET
Staff Training Day	Defined by the School	INSET
Staff Training Day	Defined by the School	INSET
Staff Training Day	Defined by the School	INSET
Staff Training Day	Defined by the School	INSET



- 1. From the **Define teacher training days** page, click **Add** to display the **New Teacher Training Day** dialog.
- 2. From the **Category** drop-down list select **Staff Training Day**. If the required category name does not exist, enter the name manually.
- 3. Enter the **Date** of the training day in **dd/mm/yyyy** format or click the **Calendar** and select the date.
- 4. Enter a relevant **Description** if required, eg. **INSET**, to ensure the type of training can be identified. The description appears in the School Diary.
- 5. Click **OK** to add the teacher training day.
- 6. **Repeat steps 1** to **5** to add other teacher training days.
- 7. Click **Next** to display the **Define public holidays** page.

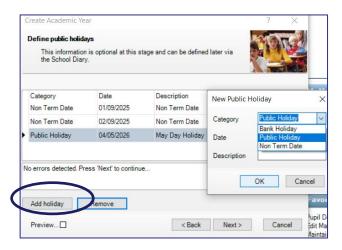
Defining Public Holidays, Bank Holidays and Non-Term Dates

In addition to other dates during term time, any public holidays, eg. Bank Holidays that occur during term time need to be entered.

If a public holiday falls within a half term or end of term holiday, it is not required to define the dates, however, these can be entered if you wish.

For Buckinghamshire Council LA Maintained Schools, Monday 1st & Tuesday 2nd September 2025 are defined as school holidays, therefore, must be entered as Non-Term Dates.

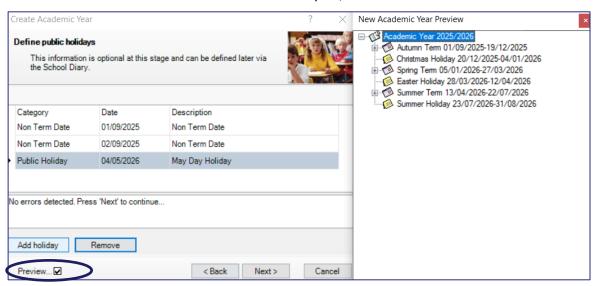
Category	Date	Description (optional)
Non Term Date	01/09/2025	Non Term Date
Non Term Date	02/09/2025	Non Term Date
Public Holiday	04/05/2026	May Day Holiday



- 1. From the **Define public holidays** page, click **Add holiday** to display the **New Public Holiday** dialog.
- 2. From the **Category** drop-down list, select **Bank Holiday**. If the category name does not exist, type in the name manually.
- 3. Enter the relevant Date in dd/mm/yyyy format or click the Calendar to select the required date.
- 4. Enter a relevant **Description**, eg. **May Day Holiday**. This description appears in the School Diary.
- 5. Click **OK** to add the holiday.
- 6. Repeat steps 1 to 5 to add non-term dates and public holidays throughout the academic year**.

Preview the 2025-26 Academic Year

To check the dates entered for the 25-26 academic year, click the **Preview** check box.

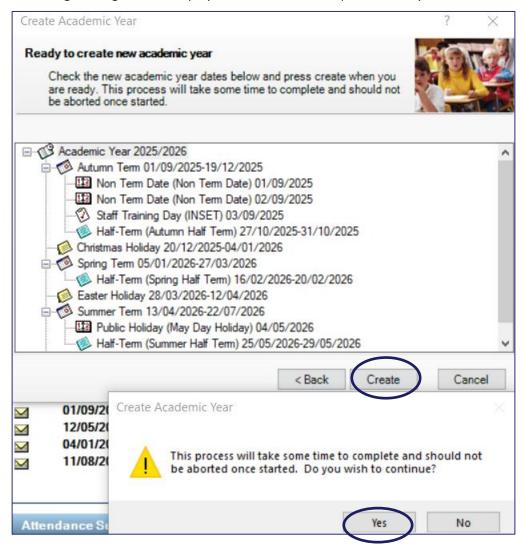


Creating the New 2025-26 Academic Year

Note: this process may take some time to complete because the system creates attendance records for the new academic year. Do not abort the process once started.

- A summary of the data entered is displayed on the **Ready to create new academic year** page.
- Click the applicable + icon to display details for each term's public holidays, INSET days etc.
- You are advised to check this information carefully for any errors or inaccuracies.

- 1. Once the information has been checked and is correct, click **Create** to create the new academic year.
- 2. If there are any anomalies in the settings, a message will display to **confirm whether you wish to proceed or review your settings**.
- 3. If the data is correct, you can proceed.
- 4. A warning message will be displayed, select **Yes** to the question "do you wish to continue".



Progress is displayed via a progress indicator at the bottom of the wizard.

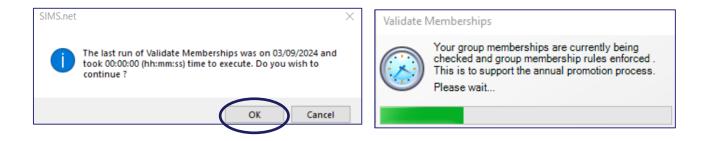
- Once complete, the final page of the wizard is displayed confirming the Academic Year was successfully created.
- 6. Click **Close** to close the wizard and complete the process.



Validate Memberships

Once the new academic year has been created, it is recommended to run the **validate memberships** process.

- 1. Select Tools | Validate Memberships.
- 2. The following page is displayed:
- 3. Click **OK**. This process may take some time.



Once the new Academic Year has been created and Validate Memberships has been completed, SIMS is available for other users to log in.

Chapter 2 Admissions for September 2025

Introduction

Intake and **Admission groups** are used to maintain lists of applicants who have registered an interest in being taught at your school.



Always refer to the latest DfE guidance regarding the admission and removal of pupils from the Registers.

Working together to improve school attendance Guidance for maintained schools, academies, independent schools, and local authorities

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/65f1b048133c22b8eecd38f7/Working together to improve school attendance applies from 19 August 2024 .pdf

DfE Expected First Day of Attendance

206. Schools must enter pupils' names on the admission register on the first day that the school and a person with control of the pupil's attendance have agreed that the pupil will attend the school. If no date has been agreed or notified, the pupil's name must be entered on the first day they attend the school. Names must be added before or at the beginning of the first session on that day.

209. If a pupil fails to attend school on the agreed starting day, the school is expected to follow this up and try to establish the reason for absence. If they are unable to locate the pupil, schools should notify the local authority.

Date of Admission

- The Date of Admission must be within the new academic year.
- The date of admission must be on a day when the school is <u>open to pupils</u>, not an INSET day or the first day of the academic year.
- If you have previously created admission groups with an incorrect date of admission, amending the date will also amend the Date of Admission for every applicant who is a member of the group. This prevents the need to edit them individually.

Add Intake Groups

Intake Groups must be created for the relevant Academic Year before Admission Groups can be set up.

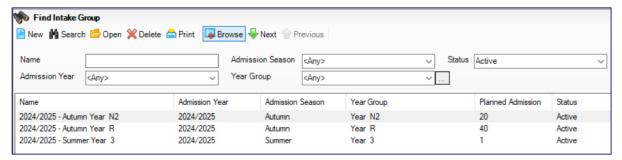
NOTE: If an additional year group is required, eg. a Nursery has been introduced to the school, this should be added to the Pastoral Structure before admission groups are created to ensure the new year group is available for selection.

For more information, refer to Chapter 3 Setting up the Pastoral Structure

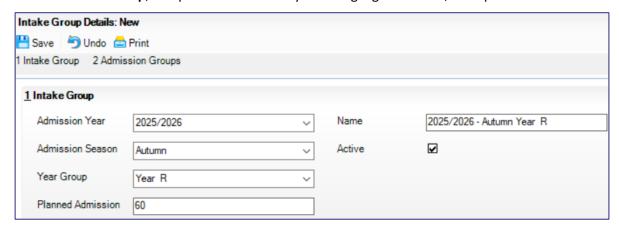
This is also a good time to delete or make inactive any unwanted admission groups, **refer to Appendix C: Admissions Module Set Up** for further guidance.

1. Select Routines | Admission | Admission Groups | Setup to display the Find Intake Group browser.

2. Select **Search** to ensure the intake group you are creating does not already exist.



- 3. Click **New** to display the **Intake Group Details** page.
- 4. Panel 1: Intake Group, complete the mandatory fields highlighted in red, example below.



- 5. **Admission Year** select academic year to which the intake group relates (eg. 2025/2026). This defaults to the new academic year
- 6. Admission Season select Autumn.
- 7. **Year Group** select from the drop-down list.
- 8. Planned Admission enter the number of applicants expected to be admitted to this intake group.
- 9. If you press the **Tab** key, it moves to the **Name** field or click in this field, a **default name** is supplied for the intake group, based on the **Admission Year**, **Admission Season** and **Year Group**,
 - eg. 2025/2026 Autumn Year R (The default name can be amended, if required).

NOTE: It is advisable to adopt and adhere to a naming convention for intake groups as it will affect the order the groups are presented in lists.

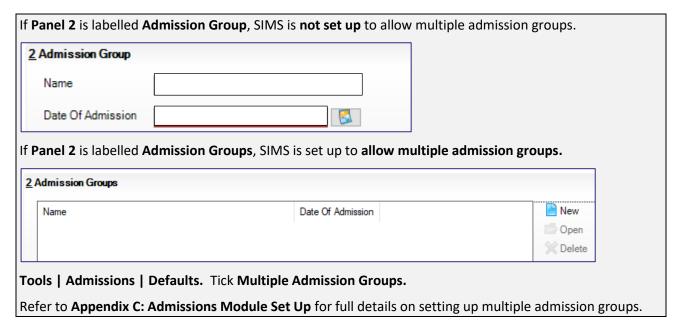
10. The **Active** check box is selected by default and indicates the intake group is available for use.

Deselect the check box only if you want to create intake groups that will be used at some point in the future (they will not be displayed in the **Find Intake Group** browser by default).

Add One or More Admission Groups

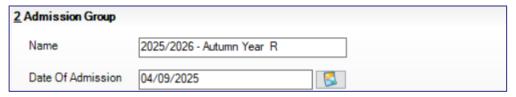
If your school has a staggered start date for Reception or EYFS pupils, SIMS can be set up to allow the use of multiple admission groups.

This section describes how to add one or more admission groups to an intake group.



One Admission Group Set Up

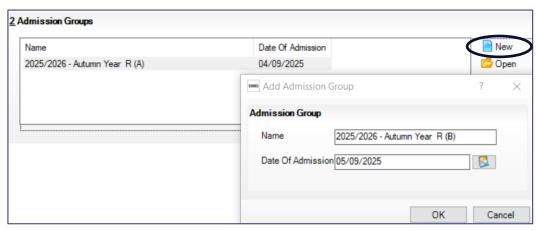
1. From the Admission Groups panel, click New to display the Add Admission Group dialog.



- 2. Enter a Name for the admission group.
- 3. Enter the **Date of Admission** or alternatively, click the **Calendar** and select the required date.
- 4. Click **OK** to add the admission group and return to the **Intake Group Details** page.
- 5. Click **Save** to create the intake and admission groups.

Multiple Admission Group Set Up

- 1. Follow steps 1 to 4 above to add one admission group.
- 2. If any further admission groups are required, click **New** to add multiple Admission Groups. **Note:** names must be unique.



3. Select **OK** and **Save.**

Once admission groups have been created, applicants can be added to SIMS and be assigned to the required admission group.

Importing Admission Transfer Files (ATF)

NOTE: We are aware of the following issues with the 2025 ATF Imports:

For Primary Schools, where a pupil with an EHCP, has your school named on their annual review, this has been entered by Buckinghamshire Council's SEN Team with a future start date of **01/09/2025**. This is transferring via the ATF, into the pupil's school history in SIMS.

This <u>must be</u> removed from Panel 11: School History in the admission record, otherwise, when the pupil is admitted, the admission date will automatically populate as 01/09/2025 and <u>not</u> the date specified in your Admission Group.

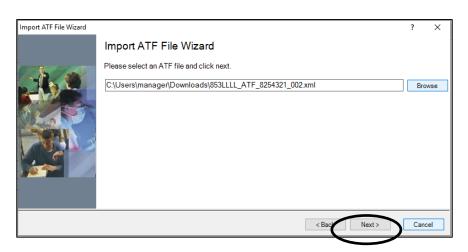
Pupil Telephone Numbers - Contact 1's telephone number are importing into **Panel 4** of the pupil's record due to a mapping issue on the ONE System and should be removed. This will happen even if you deselect "import contacts".

All pupils contained in the ATF file will be imported; there is no option to exclude importing specific pupils.

- We advise you set up the pre-admission group and import your ATF **before** you manually add applicants. This will ensure you have the correct information and format.
- If you have already manually added applicants to your pre-admission group, you must give them a status of **Applied**, to ensure the information held in the ATF will match with existing applications.
- An ATF will not match with the status of Accepted or Withdrawn.

To import an ATF: Routines | Admission | Import ATF File

- This opens an Import ATF File Wizard to guide you through the process.
 - 1. Click on Browse and navigate to the saved ATF File
 - 2. Click on Next

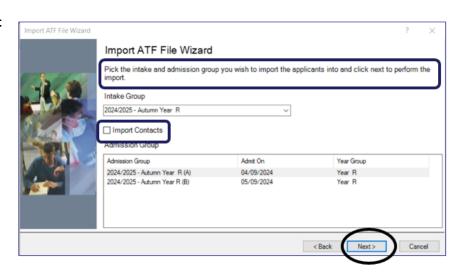


3. Locate the Intake Group from the dropdown

There is an option to **Import Contacts** and you can
choose whether or not to
import them.

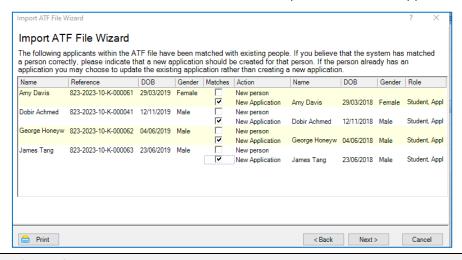
If you choose to import contacts, ensure you follow the guidance below regarding "matching contacts".

4. Click on Next to the Matching Screen.



Matching Applicants

- If an applicant in the ATF is a **match** for an **existing applicant**, select the **New Application** check box. This will update the existing application and will add the ARN (Applicant's Reference Number) to their current record.
- If an applicant in the ATF is a completely **new applicant** and not the same as the individual found by SIMS, select the **New Person** check box to record a new person and a new application.



Note: Schools with On-Site Nurseries:

Section 27 Nursery schools who have N2 pupils as **Accepted Pre-admissions** for the 2024/25 Academic Year (to enable electronic registration):

Pupils contained within the 2025/26 ATF, should not match with an existing 2024/25 applicant record and a duplicate pupil applicant record in 2025/26 must be created. This enables attendance to continue to be taken until the end of the 2024/25 Academic Year. **DO NOT** change their Admission Group to prevent loss of attendance data before the end of term.

Non Section 27 Nursery Schools who have N2 pupils listed as on-roll for the Academic Year 2024/25:

If these pupils show in the matched screen, ensure **both ticks are removed** and then manually remove these pupils from the 2025/26 admission group to remove duplicates. These pupils will be promoted from N2 to Year R (refer to Chapter 5).

Warnings may be given where duplicate pupils or duplicate contacts are imported. You are asked whether a contact in the file should be matched with an existing person in your database or whether they are a new person. A checkbox is available against each option and appropriate selection should be made. The default may be to create a new person. Consider the implications of the warnings.

Import Contacts

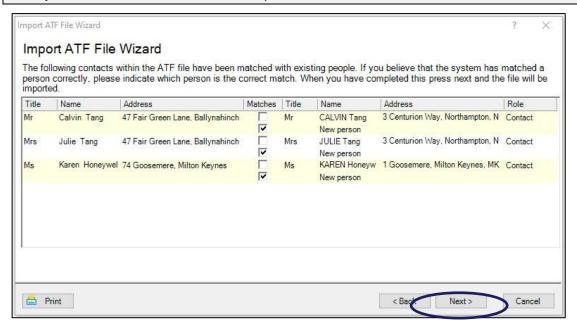
If you opted to **Import Contacts** SIMS will checks for **Contact matches** with any applicant in the incoming ATF who shares a contact that is already present in the system.

- Select the "Matches" checkbox adjacent to the correct **Name**, if any of the contacts listed on the wizard prove to be a **match** for an **Existing Contact**.
- Select the "Matches" checkbox adjacent to the **New Person** record in the **Name** column, if any of the contacts listed on the following page of the wizard prove to be a **New Contact**,

The Admissions Transfer File will contain only one contact per applicant as it is generated directly from the admissions module off the ONE system which can only be completed by one person.

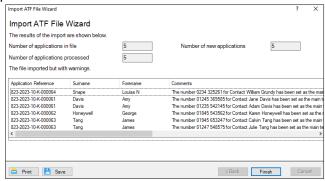
Care must be taken to match the contacts with existing records in SIMS where possible or duplicate records will be created.

Family Links will have to be made manually in SIMS.



- 1. Select **Next** and the data will be imported.
- 2. A summary of the imported data is displayed and can be printed or saved.





- 3. Click **Finish** to complete the process.
- 4. Click **Yes** to confirm the closure of the wizard.
 - The pupil details will now be visible and may be edited by selecting Focus | Admission |
 Application.
 - Select the Intake Group filter to the group created and click Search.
 - Matches may have been made with existing pupils in the school's database, who may have left the school.
 - If you have any problems with the applicants which have been added to the Pre-Admission group, contact the ICT Schools team 01296 383500 #1.

Importing Common Transfer Files (CTFs)

This section provides a summary of the steps required to import a CTF for an applicant ONLY.

- Pupils with CTFs can be imported into a pre-admission group or directly on-roll.
- If you do not have any CTF's to import, proceed to **Adding an Applicant to Admissions Manually, if applicable**.
- Appropriate intake/admission groups must be created before you can import CTF files (refer to Adding Intake/Admission Groups).

If any pupils in the CTF already exist in the system, only **blank** fields in their record are updated with data from the CTF. **Existing data is not overwritten,** as it is deemed to be the most up-to-date information.

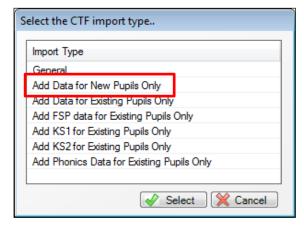
Any such information is highlighted in the Exception Log displayed at the end of the import process.

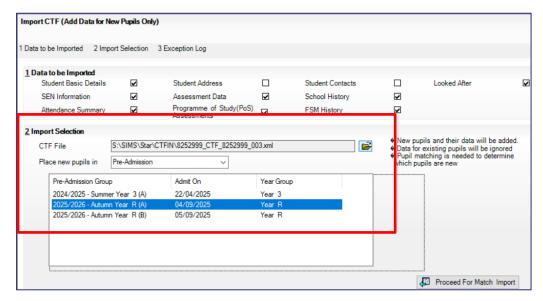
- 1. Select Routines | Data In | CTF | Import CTF to display the Select the CTF import type dialog.
- 2. Select Add Data for New Pupils Only

Panel 1: Data to be Imported, indicates the data items you want to import from the CTF by selecting the appropriate check boxes.

Panel 2: Import Selection to select the CTF to import.

- Click on the folder icon and browse to the location of the CTF
- 2. Highlight CTF and click **Open** to return to the **Import CTF** page.





- 1. From Place new pupils in, select the admission group from the drop-down list (ie. Pre-Admission).
- 2. Click **Import CTF** to start the import.
- 3. Details of any errors are displayed in the Exception Log at the bottom of the Import CTF page.
- 4. Once you have finished importing the CTF, edit the details of the imported pupils as required.

Applicant Records

Once the ATF and/or CTFs have been imported, you can view the Applicant records.

- 1. Select Focus | Admission | Application.
- 2. Click Search.
- 3. The window will populate with all current Applicant records.
- 4. These can be opened and further information added when it becomes available.

Adding an Applicant to Admissions Manually – Pupils Previously On Roll

This is applicable to:

 Non Section 27 Nursery Schools, where the pupil was on roll in a year group from E1 to N2 and subsequently left before the end of the 24/25 Academic Year.

Use this method for applicants, who previously attended your School, and is now returning.

- 1. Select Focus | Admission | Application to display the Find Application screen.
- 2. Click **New** at top left, to open the **Add Applicant** screen.
- 3. Enter the **Surname** and **Initial** (in Forename) and click **Continue**.

Add Applicant

Basic Details

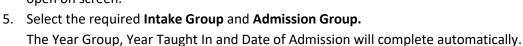
Surname

Gender

The system will search for any matched records. If any are found, the **Matched People** dialog will appear with a list of matched records.

If the correct match for the applicant is already on the system, **highlight** and click **Open**.

4. The applicant record will open on screen.



ractineur **expie**The following people known to the SIMS database have similar details
To add a new Student with the details entered above, select New.
To add an existing person or edit a known Student, select Open.

Kaur. Mr Mohammed

Gender

Full name

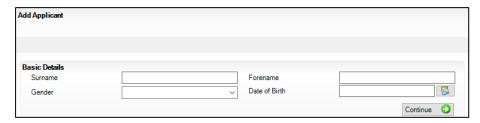
- 6. **Save** the record.
- 7. Further information can be updated.

Adding an Applicant to Admissions Manually – Never Previously Attended

Applicants can also be added manually, one at a time, to the Admissions area of SIMS.

This is generally used for applicants added after the ATF has been imported.

- Select Focus | Admission |
 Application to display the
 Find Application screen.
- 2. Click **New** to open the **Add Applicant** screen.



Forename

Roles

Contact

Date of Birth

Address

12. Comwall Road, Bedfor

- 53

Continue 🕘

New New

3. Enter Basic Details for the applicant and click Continue.

NOTE: The system will search for any matched records - **there should be no matched records**If any matching records are found, please abandon the process and investigate the pupil record before proceeding

- 4. A blank applicant record will open.
- 5. Complete the required fields in:
 - a. Basic Details Panel
 - b. Registration Panel
- 6. **Save** the record.

Further information can be added when available.

Changing the Status of Applications

This section describes how to change the status of applications to your school for the forthcoming academic year in bulk.

Applications can be added manually or imported via ATF or CTF.

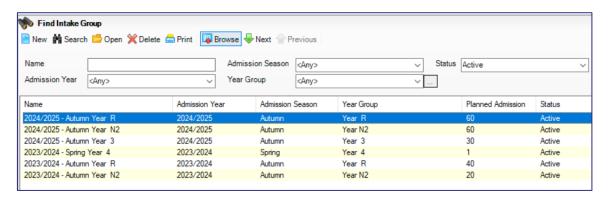
- Once added, an application is automatically given a status of Applied.
- If required, you can offer places to applicants you want to join your school (**Offered**) and then change the status of the application to **Accepted** once you have received confirmation they will be joining.
- It is possible to change an application status from Applied to Accepted, if required.
- It is also possible to change the application status of individual applicants.
- This section assumes you have added all the required applicants via Focus | Admission | Application or imported via a CTF or ATF.

Finalising Offers

Once the school offers places to applicants eg. Year R or Year 3, follow the instructions in this section.

If you do not record offers made, but wish to identify applicants who have accepted a place at your school, refer to **Accepting Applicants**.

1. Select Routines | Admission | Finalise Offers to display the Find Intake Group browser.



2. Search for, then double-click, the required intake group to display the **Finalise Offers** page.



- The **Summary** panel displays figures for the **Planned Admission**, **Total Applicants** and the number of applicants who have **Applied**.
- Own Admission Authority schools are also provided with the Late Applications field.
- Figures for the number of places Offered, Accepted, Withdrawn, and Admitted are updated as applicable information is edited and saved.

The **Applications** panel shows all applicants who have applied for a place at your school, together with the status of their application.

To change the application status, click the required cell for each applicant, as shown in the following graphic.



Accepting Applicants

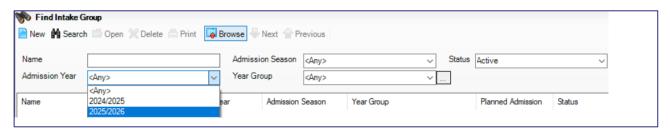
This section describes how to record applicants who have accepted a place at your school by changing their application status to **Accepted**. This can be achieved for all pupils in an intake group.

It can also be achieved at individual pupil level via Focus | Admission | Applicants.

NOTE: To enable attendance registers to be taken on the first day of term and for new pupils to be allocated to a Registration Group, they must have a status of **Accepted**.

Pupils can then be admitted once they have arrived in school.

- 1. Select Routines | Admission | Accept Applications to display the Find Intake Group browser.
- 2. Search and double-click the required intake group to display the Accept/Decline Applications page.



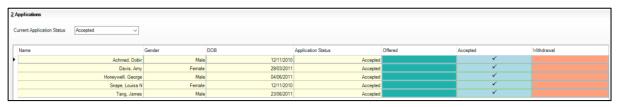


The **Summary** panel displays figures for the

- Planned Admission, Total Applicants and the number of applicants who have Applied for, or been Offered, a place at your school.
- Figures for the number of places **Offered**, **Accepted**, **Withdrawn**, and **Admitted** are updated as applicable information is edited and saved.

The **Applications** panel displays by default, all applicants with an application status of **Offered**.

- The display includes the **Name**, **Gender**, date of birth (**DOB**) and **Application Status** of each applicant, together with a tick grid that enables the application status to be amended.
- 1. To accept, click in the cell to put a tick in it
- 2. To withdraw, click the Withdraw column.



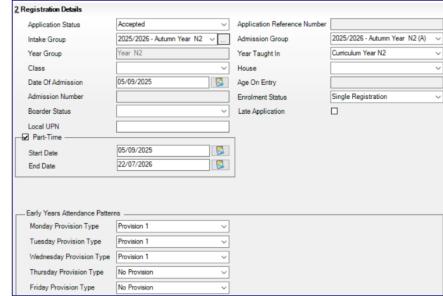
If you want to accept applicants with a status of **Applied**, select **Applied** from the **Current Application Status** drop-down list and follow this same process.

Once complete, click Save to save the changes. The Application panel refreshes its display and shows only
those applicants with an application status matching that selected in the Application Status drop-down
list. In most cases, the list is empty.

Adding Part Time Details for Applicant Records

If Part Time details are known, it is possible to add them to Applicant Records.

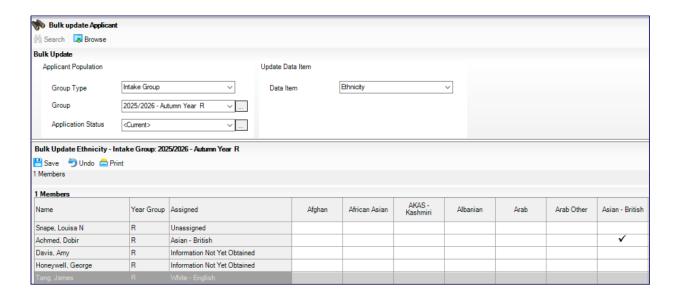
- 1. Focus | Admission | Application
- 2. **Search** for Applicant record and select **Open**.
- 3. Panel 2: Registration Details.
- 4. Tick the **Part-Time** check box. The **Start Date** and **End Date** will default to the next academic year. This can be amended if necessary.
- 5. **Save** the record.
- 6. **Continue** for all applicable Admission records.



Bulk Update Applicant's Details

It is possible to bulk update applicant records for certain data items.

- 1. Select Routines | Admissions | Bulk Update Applications
- 2. Select:
 - 1. **Group** Type = Intake Group
 - 2. **Group =** 25/26 Pre-Admission Group
 - 3. Application Status = Current
 - 4. **Data Item** = select the **data item** you wish to update.
- 3. Click **Search** to see Applicants to update records.



- 4. Tick the applicable data item on the right for the applicant name on the left.
 - 1. Use the scroll bar at the bottom.
- 5. Once completed, click **Save** and each applicant record will be updated according.
 - Click on the Browse button at the top to return to the search area to select another Data Item to update
 - Click on search and repeat steps 4 to 5 above.

Chapter 3 Setting up 2025/26 Pastoral Structure

Introduction

The next academic year's pastoral structure is automatically set up based on the current academic year's structure. Therefore, ensure a new academic year has been created before proceeding with the instructions in this section.

There may be occasions when the next academic year's pastoral structure needs to be different from the current structure. For example:

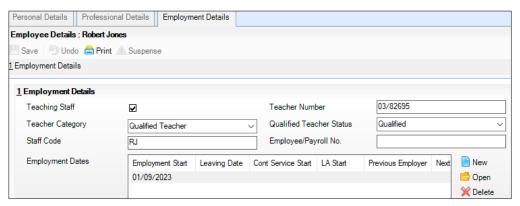
- Add additional classes, where pupil numbers have increased.
- Merge registration groups, where pupil numbers have decreased.
- Add a new year group, eg. where a Nursery has been introduced in your school.
- Change class names.

NOTE: It is not essential to assign teachers to registration groups at this stage; this can be done when the information is known **but should be done before the start of the academic year** so Attendance records are not affected. Refer to **Appendix A**: **Recording Changes to Teaching Staff in Personnel.**

If teachers are to be promoted with their pupils into the next academic year, it can be actioned as part of the pastoral promotion process.

New Teaching Staff for 2025/2026

If you wish to allocate a new teacher to a registration group, a basic personnel record must be created with an employment start date of 01/09/2025 (or before) and the **Teaching Staff** check box ticked.



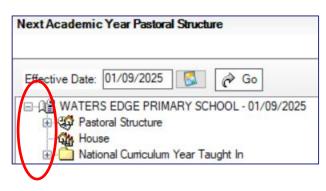
Refer to Chapter 9: Recording Changes to Teaching Staff in Personnel.

Opening the Pastoral Structure of the New Academic Year

To ensure changes are being made for the <u>next academic year</u>, the start date of the next academic year must be displayed in the **Effective Date** field.

The **Effective Date** defaults to the start date of the next academic year. Whilst it is possible to change this date to view information, **01/09/2025** must be used in order to edit information

- 1. Select Focus | School | Pastoral Structure | Next Academic Year Structure to display the Next Academic Year Pastoral Structure page.
- 2. Click Go.
- 3. The full structure can be viewed by clicking the + or icons to expand or close the display.

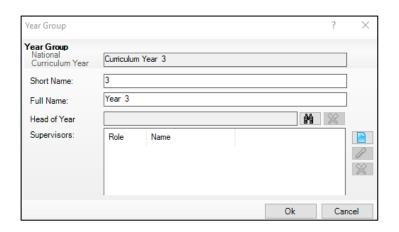


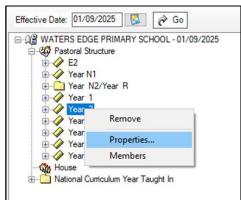
Checking National Curriculum Years

Ensure the **National Curriculum Year** associated with each year group is correct. This should be correct as the structure has been copied for previous year.

1. Right click on each **year group** and select **Properties** from the pop-up menu to display the **Year Group** dialog.

The **National Curriculum Year** associated with the year group is displayed.



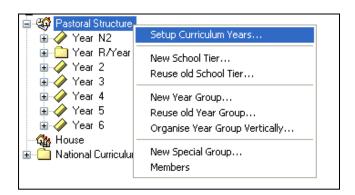


Adding New National Curriculum Year Groups

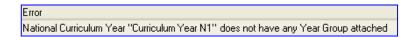
If an additional year group is required, eg. Nursery classes N1, E2 or E1; this should be added before admission groups are created to ensure the new year group is available for selection.

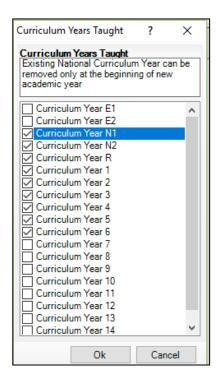
If you are adding a year group because you are extending the range of years, you will also need to set up a National Curriculum year.

- 1. Right click **Pastoral Structure** in the navigation tree.
- 2. Select Setup Curriculum Years.
- 3. Select the required **Curriculum Years Taught** check box(es).



Errors are displayed at the bottom of the screen until years and classes have been added (as shown in the following graphic).

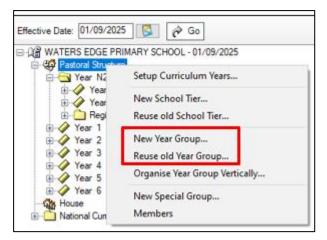




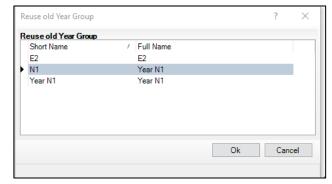
Adding a Year Group

Right-click the **Pastoral Structure** item in the structure and select:

There are two options:

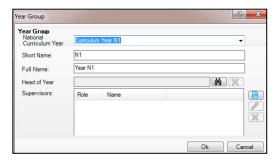


- Re-use Old Year Group for year groups previously used in the Pastoral Structure
 - a. Use this option first to check.



2. **New Year Group** for Year Groups never used in the Pastoral Structure previously

- Select the National Curriculum Year which the year group will be associated, from the drop-down list.
- 3. Enter a **Short Name**** (max. 10 characters) and **Full Name** (max. 32 characters) for the **Year Group**.



The **Full Name** is used in SIMS to identify the **Year group** (eg. Year N1).

The **Short Name** is used for **Column Headings** in reports (eg. N1).

Both names must be unique within the school.

- 4. Select the **Head of Year** if required, by clicking the **Browser** to display the **Select person** dialog. This is optional.
- 5. Click **OK** to return to the main screen.

An error will appear at the bottom. A reg group must be added to save the Pastoral Structure.



Add a Registration Group to a New Year Group

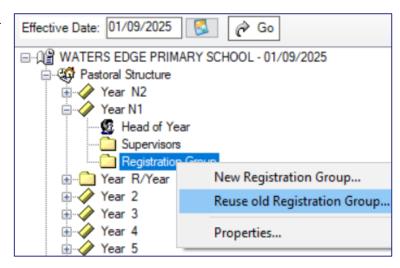
There are two options.

- Reuse and Old Registration Group
 - o It is advisable to check whether the name you intend to use for a new class has not previously been used.
- New Registration Group
 - Use this option if there are no existing registration groups for your year groups.

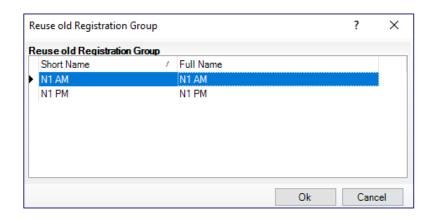
Reuse an Old Registration Group

- 1. Expand the year group to which you wish to add the class by clicking the adjacent + icon.
- 2. Right-click the **Registration Group** folder

Select **Re-use Old Registration Group** for Registration groups previously used in SIMS.



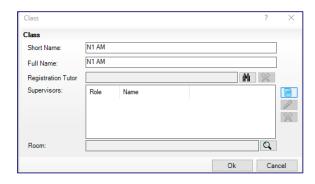
- 3. Highlight the Reg Group to reuse.
- 4. Select OK.

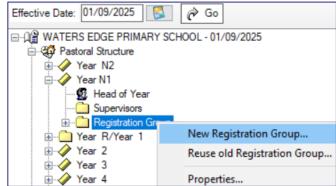


Add a New Registration Group

For Registration Group names $\underline{\textbf{not}}$ previously used in SIMS.

 Enter a Short Name and a Full Name for the new class.



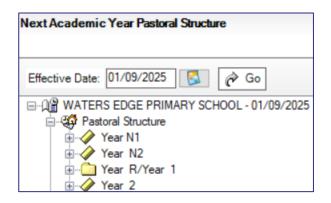


The Full Name is used in SIMS to identify the Year group (eg. Year N1).

The **Short Name** is used for **Column Headings** in reports (eg. N1).

Both names must be unique within the school.

2. Click **Save** to save the Pastoral Structure.



Changing Year Group Horizontal/Vertical Structures

If there are no changes the pastoral structure, proceed to **Changing a Class Teacher**.

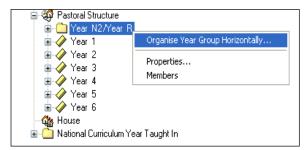
If you have the odd pupil taught out of year, you do not need to amend the structure.

- A horizontal structure is where pupils in a Registration Group are all in the same Year Group.
- A **vertical** structure allows a Registration Group to contain pupils from **different** Year Groups.

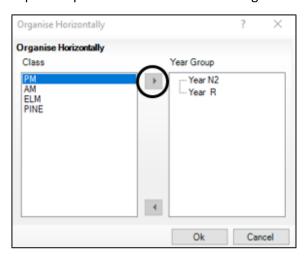
There may be occasions where the pastoral structure for the new academic year needs to be different to that of the current year. For example:

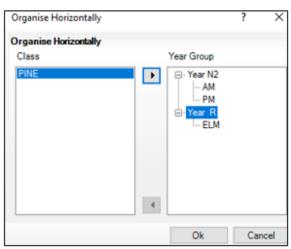
Changing from a Vertical to a Horizontal Structure

- Expand the Pastoral Structure heading by clicking the + icon. Vertically organised year groups can be identified by their names, separated by a forward slash, eg. Year N2/Year R
- 2. **Right-click** the vertically organised year group.



- 3. Select **Organise Year Group Horizontally** from the pop-up menu to display the Organise Horizontally dialog.
- 4. In the **Class panel**, highlight the class(es) you wish to attach to a year (hold down the Ctrl key and click the class names to highlight more than one class) then click the required year group in the Year Group panel.
- 5. Click the **right arrow** in the centre of the dialog to attach the selected class(es) to Nursery (Year N2). The class(es) are moved under the Year N2 heading, as shown in the following example.
- 6. Repeat steps 4 and 5 for all the remaining classes in the Class panel.



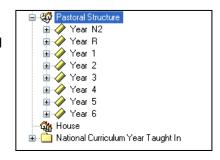


NOTE: Each class <u>must</u> be attached to a single year group and therefore, the Class panel <u>must</u> be empty before you can complete the process.

7. Click **OK** to save the details.

The pastoral structure should now show the two previously merged years as separate years, as shown in the following example.

8. Click Save.

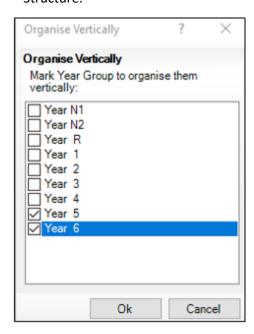


Changing from a Horizontal to a Vertical Structure

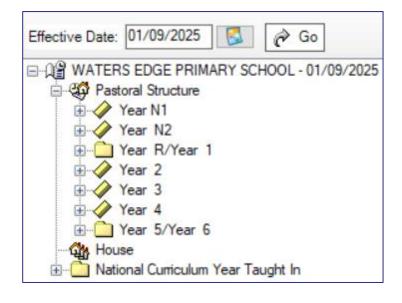
This process may be required if, for example, pupil numbers have decreased. This could allow previously separate years, eg. **Year 5** & **Year 6** (horizontally structured) to be merged into a single year, vertically structured.

Select Focus | School | Pastoral Structure | Next Academic Year Structure

- Right-click Pastoral Structure and select Organise Year Group Vertically from the pop-up menu to display the Organise Vertically dialog.
- Select the check boxes adjacent to Year 5 and Year 6 (ie. the year groups being merged into a vertical structure).
- Click **OK** to merge the selected years.
 These are displayed in the pastoral structure separated with a / (as shown below).
- Click Save at the top of the Pastoral Structure.







Adding or Changing Registration Groups (Classes)

If you do not need to add or remove any classes, proceed to Changing Class Registration Tutors.

- Always check whether the name intended to use for a new class has not previously been used.
- Expand the Pastoral Structure and appropriate year group.
- Right click the **Registration Group** folder and select **Reuse Old Registration Groups** from the pop-up menu to display the **Reuse old Registration Group** dialog. This lists any classes previously removed.

Edit Class Names Warning

It is essential you do not rename the class because the class name is recorded in the class history.

If you change the name, the change is made throughout the history of that class, so the class is recorded as always having been named according to the name change.

If a class name is to be changed for this new academic year, you must add the new class name to the pastoral structure, and then remove the unwanted class.

If the required name is listed, highlight it, and click **OK** to re-use the class rather than create a new class with the same name.

If the required name is not listed, click **Cancel** and create a new class (see below)

- 1. Expand the year group to which you wish to add the class by clicking the adjacent + icon.
- 2. Right-click the **Registration Group** folder

Either:

New Registration Group - for Registration names not previously used in SIMS.

Enter a **Short Name** and **Full Name** for the new class.

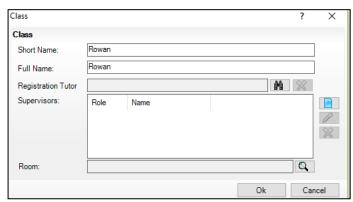
or

Re-use Old Registration Group for Registration groups previously used in SIMS.

3. Click OK.

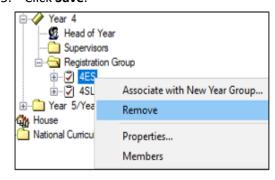
Refer to page 32 Two Registration Tutors.

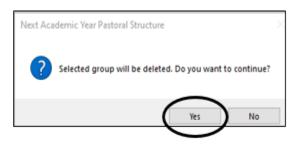




Removing Unwanted Classes from the Pastoral Structure

- 1. Select Focus | School | Pastoral Structure | Next Academic Year Structure
- 2. Expand the Pastoral Structure until you can see the Registration Group to be removed.
- 3. **Right click** on the name of the group to be removed and select **Remove** from the menu.
- 4. Click **Yes** to the warning message.
- 5. Click Save.





If there are previously assigned pupils in the 25/26 Academic structure

they must be assigned to the new group.

Click the Destination Group drop-down list

Select the Reg group.

Click OK to delete the registration group and transfer the pupil

membership.

Adding/Removing a Class Teacher on the Pastoral Structure

This process can <u>only</u> be carried out where class names are going to remain the <u>same</u> and it is only the associated teacher that is changing.

If the class name is going to change, refer to Important Note on Editing Class Names.

- 1. Expand the **Pastoral Structure** heading by clicking the + icon.
- 2. Expand the required Year Group.
- 3. Expand Registration Group.

Click Save at top

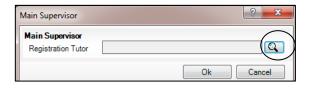
4. Expand the required Registration Group to view the **Registration Tutor.**



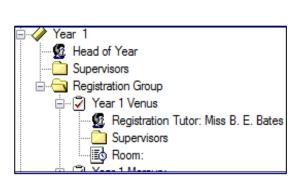
5. Right click on the name and select Remove from the menu which will delete the Teacher name

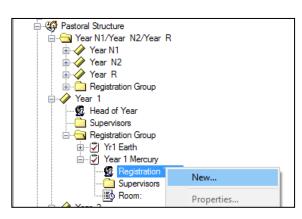
If there is no Teacher assisgned

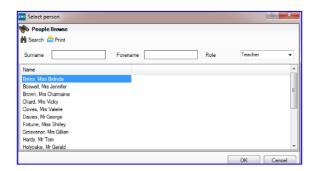
- 6. Right click on Registration Tutor and click New.
- 7. Click the magnify glass to display the Select person browse and click **Search**.



8. Highlight the required person and click **OK**.







NOTE: An onscreen warning may appear if the member of staff is still allocated to their previous class. Say **Yes** to continue. This will resolve once you have associated all members of staff to their new classes.

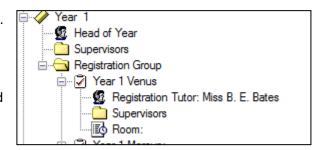
- 9. Click **OK** again and the new member of staff will now show as the Registration Tutor.
- 10. Click Save.

Classes with Two Registration Tutors

If you do not have any classes with two Registration Tutors, proceed to **Saving the Amended Pastoral Structure.**

Expand the **Pastoral Structure** heading by clicking the **+** icon.

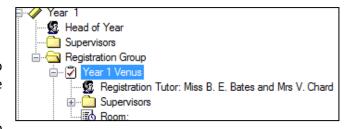
- 1. Expand the required Year Group.
- 2. Expand the required Registration Group.
- 3. Check the primary Registration Tutor has been assigned as outlined earlier.

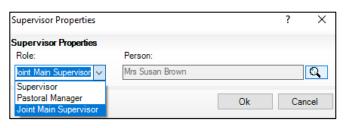


NOTE: Within SIMS, the name of the **Primary Registration Teacher** will appear **first** on class lists. The responsibility of deciding which member of staff is recorded as the primary Registration Tutor lies with the school.

Add a Second Registration Tutor.

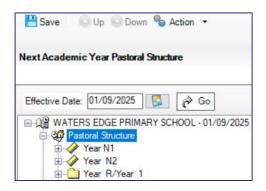
- 4. Right click the Supervisor folder.
- 5. Select Role of Joint Main Supervisor.
- Click Browser adjacent to the Person field to open the Select Person browser. Select the required person.
- 7. Click **OK** on the **Supervisor Properties** dialog to return to the **Class** dialog.
- 8. Both staff will now show as Registration Tutors.
- 9. Click Save.





Saving the Amended Pastoral Structure

Once the required changes have been made to the pastoral structure, click **Save**. This may take some time depending how frequently you have saved.



Allocating Applicants to Registration Groups/Classes

Before allocating applicants to Registration Groups, you must have added the applicant by either:

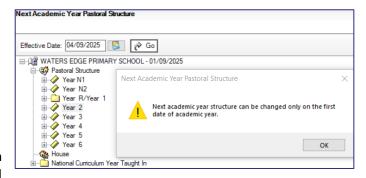
- Created Pre-admission groups
- Imported a ATF or CTF or manually added your applicants
- Applied the appropriate application status for each applicant (refer to Accepting Applicants).

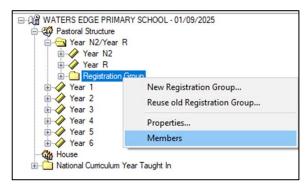
NOTE: Pupils attending your School for the first time eg. YR or Y3 and whose details are in a **Pre-Admission Group**, the **Pastoral Structure Effective Date** must be the same date as the pre-admission group date eg. 04/09/2025 and **not** the first day of the Academic Year.

- Change Effective Date to the date of admission as defined in the Intake Group eg. 04/09/2025 (not 01/09/2025).
- 2. Click Go.
- 3. Click **OK** to the warning message.
- 4. Expand the Pastoral Structure
- 5. **Expand** the **Year Group** until the **Registration Group** folder is visible under the required year.
- 6. **Right-click** the applicable **Registration Group** folder and select **Members**

The Name, Gender, current Year Group, and current Reg Group is displayed for each applicant together with the total number of applicants allocated to each class (at the bottom of the grid).

Right-click any column heading to change the order.





The **Student Status** section enables you to limit the applicants displayed in the grid, as follows:

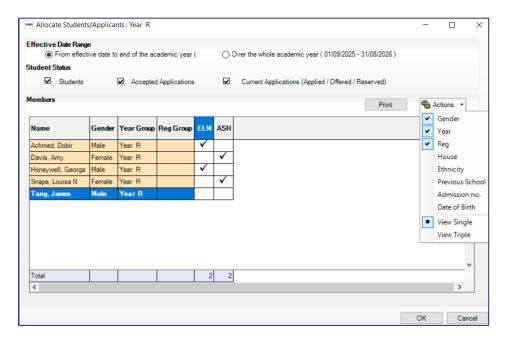
- **Pupils** select this check box to display any on-roll pupils who have been assigned to any class within the selected year. These pupils are displayed with a **grey background**.
- Accepted Applications select this check box to display any applicants who have an application status of Accepted. These applicants are displayed with a pink background.

• **Current Applications** – select this check box to display any applicants who have an application status of **Offered.** These applicants are displayed with an **orange background**.

NOTE: Although you can specify which class the applicants will go in, the applicants must be admitted via: **Routines | Admitsion | Admit Applications** before they become a member of this class.

This routine is carried out once the new academic year has started.

- 7. Additional columns of information can be added to the grid by clicking Actions eg. Date of Birth.
- 8. Select the required class for each applicant in the grid by clicking the appropriate cell to display a tick. Clicking the cell again removes the tick.
- 9. Once you have selected classes for each the applicants, click **OK**.
- 10. Click Save the Pastoral Structure.



Chapter 4 Recording 2024/25 Leavers

Introduction

The facility to record leavers enables accurate records to be kept of pupils after they have left the school. Pupils should only be marked as leavers if you are sure they are leaving, eg. **Year 2** pupils moving to Junior School; **Year 6** pupils moving to Secondary school.

DfE Statutory Guidance Notes

Working together to improve school attendance Guidance for maintained schools, academies, independent schools, and local authorities

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/65f1b048133c22b8eecd38f7/Working together to improve school attendance applies from 19 August 2024 .pdf

<u>Always</u> refer to the latest **DfE Statutory guidance** regarding the removal of pupils from the Registers.

Refer to https://schoolsweb.buckscc.gov.uk/behaviour-wellbeing/children-missing-education-missing-education-missing-ed

Date of Leaving:

The **leaving date** must be a date when the pupil could have attended school ie. the last school day of the 2024/25 academic year eg. 22/07/2025.

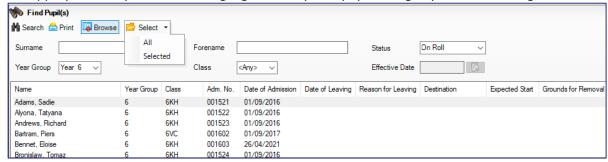
Do not make a date of leaving on an INSET day or during the school holidays.

Do not make a date of leaving on the last day of the academic year ie. 31/08/2025.

Do not record leavers by removing their date of admission because this will affect <u>all</u> historical data relating to the pupil.

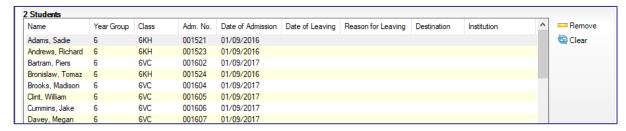
Recording "End of Phase" Leavers - Year 2 and Year 6

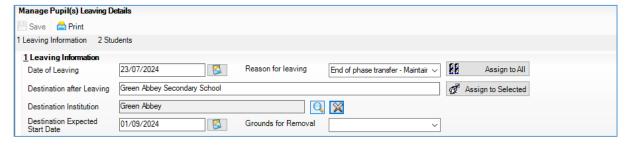
- 1. Select Routines | Pupils | Leavers.
- 2. **Search** for the required pupil. Double-click their name to display **Manage Pupil(s) Leaving Details** page.
- 3. To assign a group of pupils as leavers, **Search** on the appropriate **Year** or **Reg Group** by selecting from the appropriate drop-down lists. Highlight the required pupils using any of the following methods.



- 4. From the **Select** drop-down menu, select **All** to select all the pupils displayed in the browser.
- 5. To select a group of pupils, **highlight them** using either of the following methods:
 - Hold down the Ctrl key and click each pupil to be selected.

- To highlight sequentially listed pupils, click the first name in the list, hold down the Shift key and click
 the last name in the list.
- 6. Once the required pupils have been highlighted, click **Select** to add them to the **Students** panel.



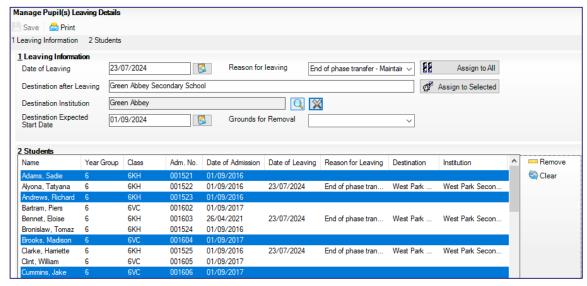


- 7. In Panel 1: Leaving Information, enter the Date of Leaving or click Calendar and select the required date.
- 8. Select the Reason for leaving from the drop-down list, eg. End of Phase Transfer-Maintained School.
- 9. Enter the **Destination after Leaving**.

If the school is outside of Bucks or to a school with a common name, enter details of the Town and/or County or DfE number in addition to the school's name.

For **End of Phase Y2** and **Y6 Leavers,** if the **Destination after Leaving** is **not known**, enter "**TBC**". When the new school details are known, they can be updated in **Panel 11: School History**.

- 10. Open the **Destination Institution** and **Search** for the relevant school. Select **OK.**
- 11. Destination Expected Start Date will be 01/09/2025 for all pupils transferring to their next phase school.
- 12. Grounds for Removal not applicable for End of Phase pupils.
- 13. Highlight the relevant pupils using the Ctrl and Shift keys then clicking their names.
- 14. Click Assign to Selected or Assign to All.



NOTE: It is recommended to Save each time you have assigned a destination to a selection of pupils.

15. Repeat until all pupils have leaving details assigned to them.

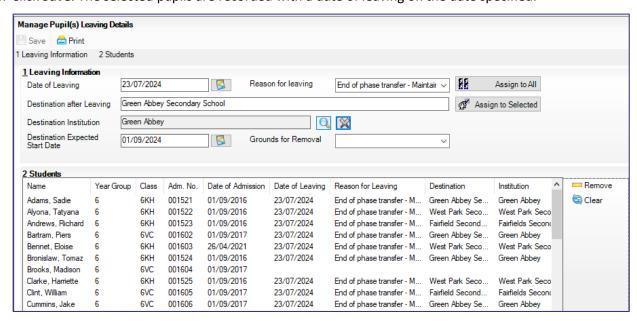
If an error has been made, highlight the pupil, correct the information in the **Leaving Information** panel then click **Assign to Selected**.

To remove a pupil from the list, highlight their name then click **Remove**.

To clear the contents of the **Date of Leaving**, **Reason for leaving** and **Destination after Leaving** columns in the **Students** panel, highlight the required pupils then click **Clear**.

Re-enter the information as required.

16. Click Save. The selected pupils are recorded with a date of leaving on the date specified.



For pupils leaving at End of Phase a "removal from roll notification form" is not required.

Recording "Out of Phase" and "In Year Transfer" Leavers

Follow steps $\mathbf{1} - \mathbf{16}$ above to record leavers not in $\mathbf{Yr} \mathbf{2}$ (Infant) or $\mathbf{Yr} \mathbf{6}$ (Junior/Primary) who are leaving school, with the following information:

- Date of Leaving enter the last day of summer term or other leaving date, as advised.
- Reason for Leaving as "In Year Transfer Maintained School" (or other applicable reason).
- **Destination after Leaving** enter the new school, as advised.
- Destination Expected Start Date enter the date, as advised.
- Grounds for Removal select from the drop-down list.
- **CME guidance** states: Buckinghamshire Schools are required to complete a "**removal from Roll Notification Form**" for any pupil who leaves at a **non-transition point**.
- Refer to https://schoolsweb.buckscc.gov.uk/behaviour-wellbeing/children-missing-education/

Managing Leaver's Address Details in SIMS:

- Where pupils are leaving school and <u>remaining at their current address</u> **do not** enter an address end date on the pupil or family record.
- Where pupils are leaving school and moving house, schools are required to obtain a forwarding address (if applicable) and ensure the pupil's address, and any relevant family members addresses, are updated before the pupil is removed from the admission register.
- If a new address is **not known**, enter an **address end date** for the pupil ie. same day as leaving date. This information must be entered before a CTF is generated.

There may be occasions where a pupil's address is not shared due to:

- > Safeguarding reasons
- > The pupil has been located as out of county but the address is not known.
- The pupil has moved overseas.

In these circumstances:

- Enter the generic address as 'XX99 9XX and Street name of 'Moved Out of County' or 'Moved Overseas'.
- ➤ Untick the 'Home address can be disclosed' and 'home address can be transferred' box in the contact address.

Note: PO Box Addresses can only be used for parental contact addresses, not a pupil.

Free School Meal Eligibility End Date

No requirement to put an end date.

Refer to guidance on SchoolsWeb:

https://schoolsweb.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/school-management-support/free-school-meals/

https://schoolsweb.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/school-management-support/free-school-meals/free-school-meal

Transitional protections apply from 1 April 2018, until the end of the 2025/26 school year. Pupils becoming eligible for free school meals under the benefits-based criteria in this time, will continue to receive free meals until the end of the 2025/26 school year.

This applies, regardless of any change in household circumstances, including an increase in earnings above the eligibility threshold.

From the start of the 2026/27 academic year, it is the Department for Education's intention that all protections will be discontinued, alongside an extension to the eligibility criteria for free school meals. From this point, households must meet the eligibility criteria to be entitled to free school meals.

Exporting Common Transfer Files (CTF)

Note: If schools request the CTF's before the end of the academic year, a further CTF will need to be resent, on completion of the academic year to ensure the full attendance and key stage results are included.

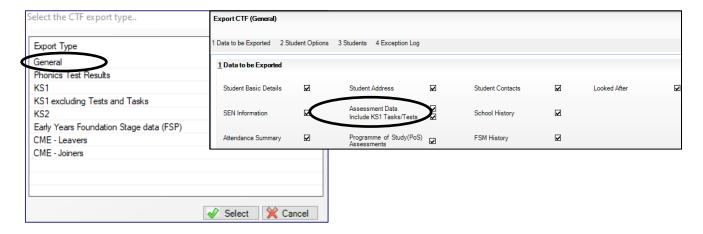
The law requires, as specified in the **Education (Pupil Information) (England) Regulations 2005**, that a CTF must be sent to the receiving school **no later than 15 days** after the day on which a pupil ceases to be registered at the "old" school but it can also be sent in advance particularly when pupils are moving from primary to secondary schools.

https://schoolsweb.buckscc.gov.uk/school-management-support/common-transfer-file-ctf/

- Ensure the relevant pupils are given a **Date of Leaving** before exporting the CTF.
- Check the required **Destination Schools** are in SIMS via: **Tools | Other Schools**

Create a CTF

- 1. Select Routines | Data Out | CTF | Export CTF.
- 2. Select **General** to display the **Export CTF** page.
- 3. In the **Data to be Exported** panel, ensure the check boxes relating to the data items you wish to export are selected. In most instances the default is acceptable.

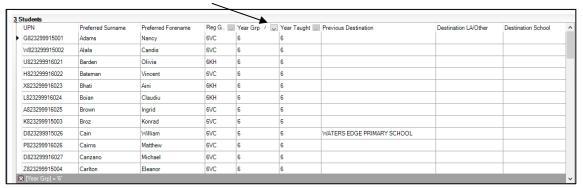


NOTE: All schools exporting CTF's must ensure the **Assessment Data & Include KS1 Tasks/Tests** is ticked.

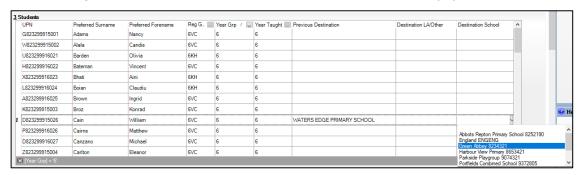
4. From the **View** drop-down list in the **Pupil Options** panel, select the **status** of the pupils you wish to include in the CTF file



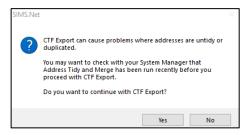
- 5. Tick Include students already exported box.
- 6. Click Refresh Students to update the list of pupils displayed based on your selections.
- 7. To change the display order, click any of the column headings.
- 8. In most circumstances, a single year group will be selected eg. Year 6. Selecting the required year from the **Year Grp** drop-down list as shown in the following graphic.



- 9. Select the **Destination School or Destination LA/Other** by clicking in the appropriate cell then selecting from the drop-down list. This can be done on an individual basis, or you can select multiple pupils as follows:
 - Hold down the Ctrl key and click each pupil to be selected.
 - To highlight sequentially listed pupils, click the **first name** in the list, hold down the **Shift** key, then click the **last name** in the list.
 - To select all pupils, right-click anywhere in the table and click Select All from the pop-up menu.
- 10. Once multiple pupils have been selected, **left click** in the **Destination School** column for the last pupil highlighted.
- 11. Click the **drop-down** and select the **Destination School** for the selected pupils.



- 12. Once all pupils have the correct destination recorded, click Export CTF to create the export file(s).
- 13. An Address Tidy Prompt will appear on screen, select Yes.



14. A message will shortly be displayed on screen to confirm the file(s) has been created.

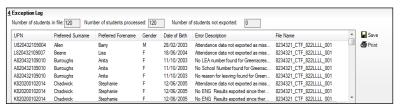
NOTE: If you have more than one destination selected, a CTF will be created for each destination school.

15. Note the **filename**(s). You will need this information when you **upload** the CTF's to the **DfE s2s** website. Refer to guidance on **SchoolsWeb**.



- 16. After the file has been created, any errors are displayed in the **Exception Log** panel, together with the number of pupils in the file, the number processed, and the number not exported.
- 17. Check the Number of students in the file matches the Number of students processed.

Note: any errors must be corrected before the pupil can be successfully included in the CTF export file.



Chapter 5 Promotion into 2025/26 Pastoral Structure

Introduction

Setting up the promotion paths for the pastoral structure plays a key part in the end of year procedures and ensures that pupils move from their current year group and class into the correct year group in the new academic year.

This process is used to set the path for year groups and classes, but it is also possible to specify a promotion path for individual pupils in the case there are any exceptions.

It is recommended pupils are allocated to Registration Groups / Classes via the **Pastoral Structure** (refer to **Allocating Applicants to Registration Groups**).

Pastoral Promotion Procedure

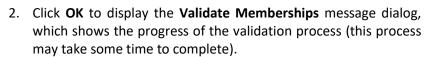
Setting the promotion mapping can be carried out at any point, as the promotion itself occurs at the beginning of the next academic year. **However, it** <u>must be done before the start of the academic year</u>.

You can **repeat the process** a number of times until you are happy all pupils have been allocated to the appropriate registration groups.

BEFORE PROCEEDING: Check the following has been actioned:

- Recorded any changes to teaching staff (added new teachers and added dates of leaving for any leavers).
- Created the new academic year.
- Amended your pastoral structure as required, such as adding new classes.
- 1. Select Routines | School | Promotion to display the Promotion Data Check dialog.

You are advised that pupil data needs to be prepared (all current group memberships are checked and confirmed).



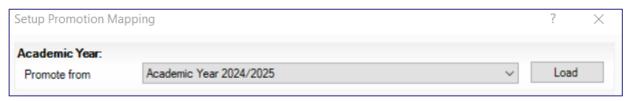
The **Setup Promotion Mapping** dialog is displayed once the validation process is complete,.





3. **Promote from** the **current academic year** should be displayed automatically. If not, select from the drop-down list.

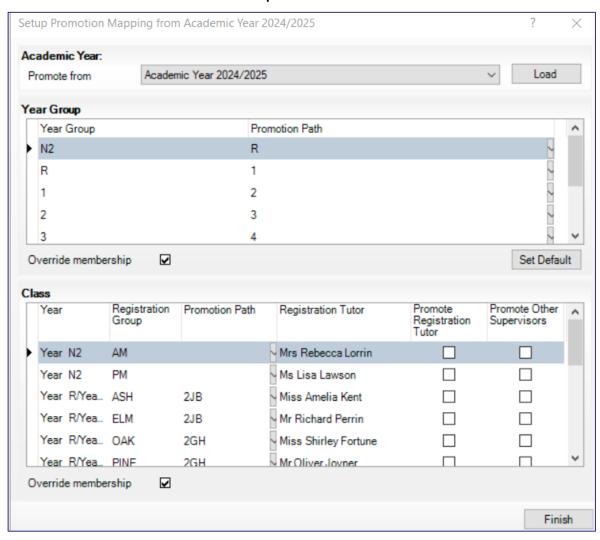
WARNING: Ensure you select the **correct academic year** otherwise any changes made will affect the wrong year and can be difficult to rectify.



4. Click Load.

Setup Promotion Mapping from Academic Year 2024/2025

- Year Group Panel you should not need to change anything in this panel.
- **Promotion Path** Is populated with a default set of promotion paths where one year is promoted to the next ie. **Year 1** is **promoted** to **Year 2** and so on.
- Class Panel displays a list of the classes for the current year, and a drop-down menu allows you to select the class for the next year.
- The **Registration Tutor** is the <u>current</u> tutor.
- If the tutor is being promoted along with the class, **tick** the box alongside. Otherwise, you do not need to change anything.
- The same can be done for Other Supervisors.



- 5. In the Class panel, review the promotion path for each class. Move down one class at a time by clicking in the Registration Group column and select the class to which the pupils will be promoted from the Promotion Path column drop-down list. Repeat this process for all classes.
- 6. If **mixed year group classes** are promoting to different classes, or a class is splitting into two classes, leave the **Promotion Path** blank and assign pupils to the correct class.

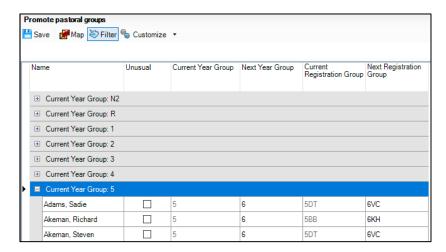
Refer to Chapter 6 – Allocating On Roll Pupils to Registration Groups.

It is ok to have some classes with a Promotion Path, and some not.

7. Select the **Override Membership** check box in both the **Year Group** and **Class** panels the **first time** you carry out the promotion mapping process. This ensures any existing memberships (however they were defined) are overwritten.

NOTE: If you already carried out this process to set up your mappings and you now wish to edit them, ensure the **Override Membership** check box is <u>not</u> selected if you wish to retain your previous settings.

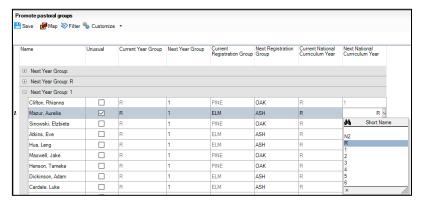
- 8. Click **Finish** and **Save** the settings to move to the **Promote pastoral groups** screen.
 - **NOTE**: Pre-admissions applicants will <u>not</u> show here.
 - Their class allocation is covered in Allocating Applicants to Registration Groups/Classes.
 - The Promote pastoral groups page lists the current year groups.
 - Click Map on the toolbar at any point to return to the Setup Promotion Mapping dialog.
- 9. SIMS displays the **Promote Pastoral Groups** page, which lists the current year groups.



Setting the Promotion Path for Individual Pupils

This can be used, for example, if a current Y2 pupil is being held back academically eg. chronological year group Y3 but will be taught in NC Year 2 for the 2025/26 academic year.

10. **Double-click** the **current year group** for which you want to view or set individual promotion paths.



11. Once expanded, you can change the year or registration group for individual pupils by clicking in the appropriate column and selecting a different year or registration group from the dropdown list.

- 12. The change appears in red and the **Unusual** check box is selected automatically to indicate the change falls outside the normal mapping set previously (using the **Setup Promotion Mapping** dialog).
- 13. Click **Save** to save the promotion mappings. The promotion occurs at the beginning of the next academic year.
- 14. A warning is displayed if any unusual promotions have been set.
- 15. Click **Yes** to accept the warning.

Chapter 6 Editing, Updating & Checking On Roll Pupils Registration Groups

Introduction

This chapter explains how to allocate, change or update on roll pupils to the next years registration groups. This will enable the printing of registers prior to the start of the academic year.

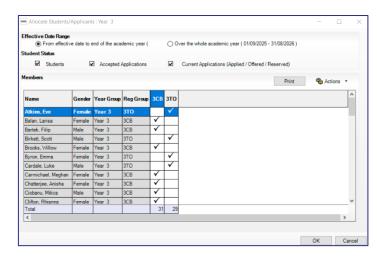
Allocating / Checking On Roll Pupils in the Pastoral Structure

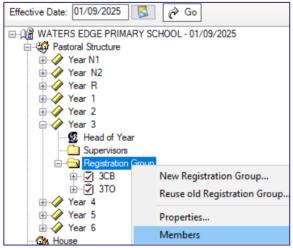
- 1. Select Focus | School | Pastoral Structure | Next Academic Year Structure to display the Next Academic Year Pastoral Structure page.
- 2. Ensure the Effective Date is 01/09/2025 and click Go.

The Effective Date defaults to the start date of the next academic year ie. 01/09/2025.

For pupil's already on roll and being promoted to their next year group eg. Year 3 moving to Year 4, this date MUST be used to allocate or edit reg group membership.

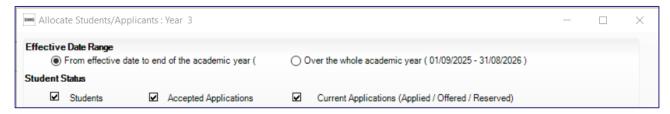
- 3. Right-click on Registration Group
- Select Members to display the Allocate Students/Applicants dialog.





- The Name, Gender, current Year Group and Reg Group is displayed for each applicant.
- The total applicants allocated to each class is shown at the bottom of the grid.
- Right-click any column heading to change the order.

The **Student Status** section enables you to limit the applicants displayed in the grid, as follows:

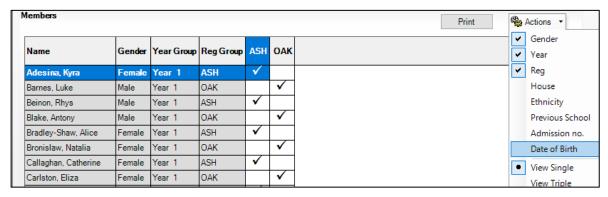


- **Students** select to display any on-roll pupils who have been assigned to any class within the selected year. These pupils are displayed with a grey background.
- **Accepted Applications** select to display any applicants who have an application status of **Accepted**. These applicants are displayed with a pink background.
- Current Applications select to display any applicants who have an application status of Applied, Offered or Reserved. These applicants are displayed with an orange background.

NOTE: Although you can specify which class the applicants will go in, applicants must be admitted via **Routines | Admission | Admit Applications** before they become a member of this class.

This routine is carried out once the new academic year has started.

Additional columns of information can be added to the grid by clicking Actions eg. Date of Birth.



- 5. Select the required class for each applicant in the grid by clicking the appropriate cell to display a tick. Click the cell again to remove the tick.
- 6. Once you have selected classes for each applicant, click **OK** to **Save** the changes.

Chapter 7 Printing Class Lists and Registers for the New Academic Year

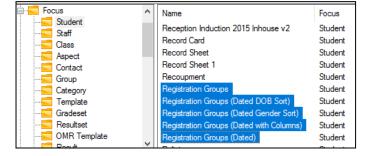
Introduction

Once you have carried out the preceding routines, it is possible to print out Class Lists and Registers (if required) for the new academic year.

Printing Class (Registration Group) Lists

Class (Registration Group) lists can be easily produced using any of the following pre-defined reports:

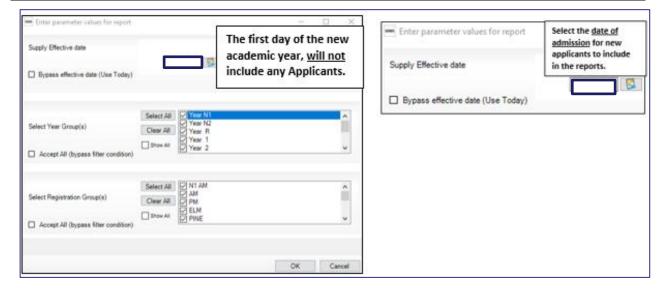
- Registration Groups
- Registration Groups (Dated DOB Sort)
- Registration Groups (Dated Gender Sort)
- Registration Groups (Dated with Columns).
- Registration Groups (Dated)



- 1. Select **Reports | Run Report** to display the **Report** browser.
- 2. Expand the **Student** focus. Double-click the required report, eg. **Registration Groups (Dated)** to display the **Enter parameter values for report** dialog.
- 3. **Deselect** the **Bypass effective date** check box.
- 4. Supply Effective Date enter the required date:

01/09/2025 will not include Applicants.

Applicant date of admission eg. 04/09/2025 will include applicants.



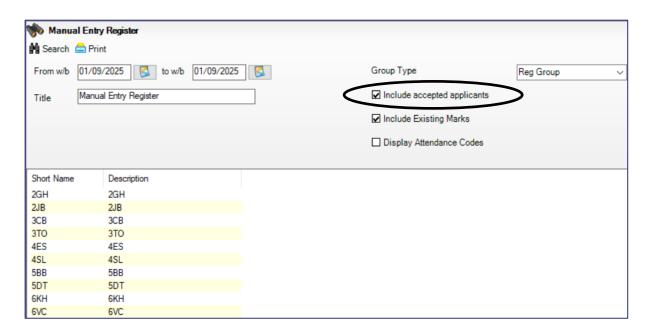
- 5. Select the required Year Group(s) and Registration Group(s).
- 6. Click **OK** to produce the required report.

Printing Manual Entry Registration Sheets

- 1. Select Reports | Attendance | Manual Entry | Print Registration Sheets.
- 2. Select From w/b 01/09/2025 to w/b 01/09/2025.
- 3. Change Group Type to Reg Group
- 4. Tick Include accepted applicants.

NOTE: Only applicant records with a status of **Accepted**, will show on this report.

- 5. Click Search.
- 6. Click Select All.
- 7. Click Print.



Show Applicants at Take Register Set-Up

If no applicants are showing on the registers, go to:

- 1. Tools | Setups | Attendance Setup | Module Setup
- 2. Go to: Panel 5: Visibility Switches
- 3. Ensure the **Show Applicants at Take Register** box is **ticked**.
- 4. Save.

Chapter 8 Other SIMS Module Processes

Introduction

It is recommended the following processes are carried out <u>before</u> the start of the new academic year either towards the end of term or during the school holidays

Finalising Attendance Data for 2024/2025

It is essential all attendance data for the Academic Year is accurate and up to date

Missing Marks (-)

- 1. Focus | Attendance | Deal with Missing Marks
- 2. Enter date ranges and change Group Type to Whole School
- 3. Click **Search** and **Open**
- 4. Resolve any missing marks.

Unexplained Absences (N Codes)

- 1. Focus | Attendance | Deal with Unexplained Absences
- 2. Enter date ranges and change select Group Type to Whole School
- 3. Click Search and Open
- 4. Resolve any Unexplained Absences

All missing marks and unexplained absences should be actioned, ideally before the end of the Academic Year.

Adding/Removing Users for SIMS Online Services Products

If not already actioned during the Summer Holidays, these instructions are repeated for users of SIMS Online Services products only (eg. SIMS Parent, Options Online).

Users of **SIMS Online Services** can be managed on the **Manage Users** page of **Product Admin** https://admin.sims.co.uk.

It is recommended the following actions are taken over the summer holidays or early in the academic year:

- Invite staff members joining the school. Staff members joining the school will not show in the portal until their employment start date.
- Invite pupils joining the school.
- Invite parents of pupils joining the school. They will not be able to see their child's data until after the date of admission.

NOTE: Invitations are valid for 90 days from the date they are sent out.

Parents of pupils who are **accepted** applicants can register to use SIMS Online Services. However, they are not able to access Data Collection functionality until their child is on roll.

For more information, refer to the **Help Centre** via the **SIMS Parent for Schools** Documentation Centre.

Chapter 9 Admitting Pupils in the New Academic Year

Introduction

After the start of the new academic year, there are routines which MUST be completed. DO NOT process any of these before the start of the new academic year.

SIMS Database Maintenance Checks

It is important the following processes must be carried out on or after the start date of the new academic year to prevent SIMS from crashing.

Validate Memberships

Go to: Tools | Validate Memberships

Database Diagnostics

Go to: Tools | Systems Diagnostics | Database Diagnostics and select Run.

If you are unable to see these routines in SIMS, this will be due to restrictions to your SIMS permissions.

It is recommended these routines are run when all users are logged out of SIMS as these can be long processes.

Admitting Applicants

DfE Guidance - Expected First Day of Attendance

https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/working-together-to-improve-school-attendance

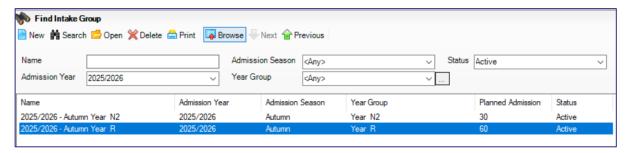
143. Schools must enter pupils on the admission register at the beginning of the **first** day on which the school has agreed with, or been notified by the parents, that the pupil will attend the school.

145. If a pupil fails to attend school on the agreed starting day, the school must follow this up and try to establish the reason for absence.

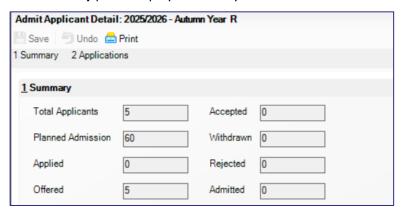
Note: **<u>DO NOT</u>** admit pupils with a **future admission date**.

Pupils with a future admission date results in conflicts of data between the current and future schools on B2B, in addition to having to delete the record if the pupil accepts a place at another school.

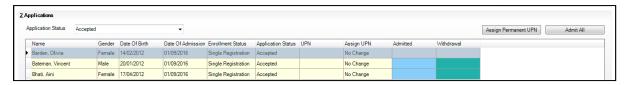
- 1. Select Routines | Admission | Admit Applications to display the Find Intake Group browser.
- 2. Search for, and double-click, the required intake group to display the Admit Applicant Detail page.



3. The **Summary** panel displays read-only statistics about the selected intake group.



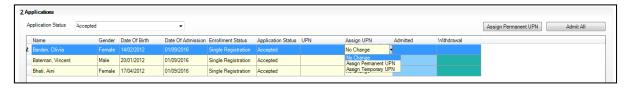
- The Applications panel displays by default, all applicants with an application status of Accepted.
- The display includes the Name, Gender, Date of Birth, proposed Date of Admission, Enrolment Status, Application Status, UPN and whether a UPN will be assigned.
- A tick grid is provided, enabling the application status to be amended as required.
- The order of the display can be changed by clicking any column heading.



4. Click **Assign Permanent UPN** if required.

The Assign UPN column is populated with Assign Permanent UPN, as shown in the following graphic.

- 5. **Permanent UPNs** are issued to **new applicants** only when it is believed they have never previously been allocated a UPN.
- 6. To edit individual applicants, select the required value from the drop-down list in the **Assign UPN** column, eg. **No Change** (if the applicant already has a UPN).



UPN information is required for School Census. This is the only opportunity to bulk allocate UPNs.

If they are not generated here, allocate UPN's on an individual basis via the Pupil's Record.

Any known existing UPNs can be entered in the Basic Details panel via Focus | Admission | Applicant.

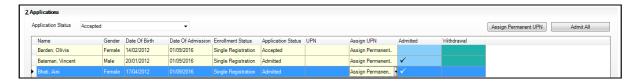
Withdrawal applicants at this point before admitting.

This prevents pupils who did not start or any duplicate records (ie. pupils already on roll in N2 but also included in ATF for Reception) admitted and put on roll.

If you intend to admit all applicants in the selected intake group, click Admit All.

Alternatively, click in the **Admitted** column adjacent to each applicant you wish to admit.

The most effective method is to click **Admit All** and edit any exceptions.



7. Once complete, click **Save** to admit the applicants.

The **Application** panel refreshes its display and shows only those applicants with an application status matching that selected in the **Application Status** drop-down list. In most cases, the list is empty.

Chapter 10 Further Routines To Be Carried Out

Re-admitting Pupils

Any pupils, not part of the admissions process, who have left your school and then subsequently return, must be re-admitted rather than added to the system again. This ensures the pupil's educational **History** is maintained.

IMPORTANT: It is essential that you follow the process for re-admissions (ie. for pupils who have left your school and subsequently return).

Do <u>not</u> remove the Date of Leaving as a method of re-admitting. However, if the pupil was originally leaving and changes their mind, ie. they do not actually leave, then you should remove their Date of Leaving.

It is acceptable for there to be a gap between the date of leaving and the date of return and this will be reflected in SIMS if it is the case (eg. if the pupil leaves in July but returns in September).

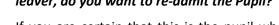
If you do not want any gaps in the associated class memberships, then you must **edit the history** via **Focus | Pupil | Pupil Details** page and click **History** on the **Registration panel**.

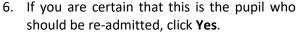
New 👭 Search 🔻 🗂 Open 🚍 Print 🛛 Browse 🗣 Next 🔓 Previous 🔲 View 🔻

1. Select Focus | Pupil | Pupil Details to display the Pupil Details page.

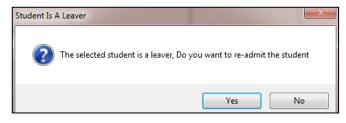
Add Student

- 2. Click New to display the Add Pupil page.
- 3. Enter the pupil's known details into the **Basic Details** panel then click **Continue**.
- 4. A list of **Matched People** matching the search criteria entered is displayed.
- 5. Highlight the required pupil and click Open to display a warning message The selected pupil is a leaver, do you want to re-admit the Pupil?





7. Add/edit further details as required, then click **Save**. All mandatory fields are highlighted in red and must be completed before you are able to finally save the pupil's details.



5

New

8. Click **Save** again if any additional data has been added.

The Official Register for 2024-25

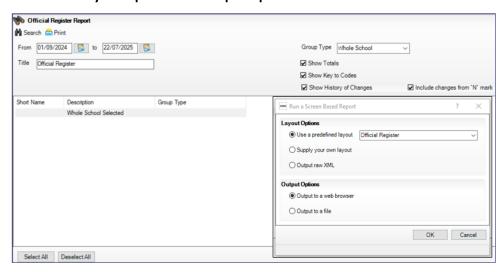
Refer to the **latest DfE statutory guidance** <u>Working together to improve school attendance (applies from 19 August 2024)</u>

The Official Register is a statutory requirement.

The official attendance registers should be kept electronically.

Before saving the official register, missing marks and unexplained absences must be actioned and resolved.

- 1. Select **Reports | Attendance | Whole Group Pupil Reports | Official Register Report** to display the Official Register Report page.
- 2. Enter the required dates and click **Search**.
- 3. Select the **Group Type** eg. Whole School.
- 4. Click **Print** to produce the required reports where a **Run a Screen Based Report** will display.
- 5. Choose the Layout Options and Output Options for the file. Select OK.



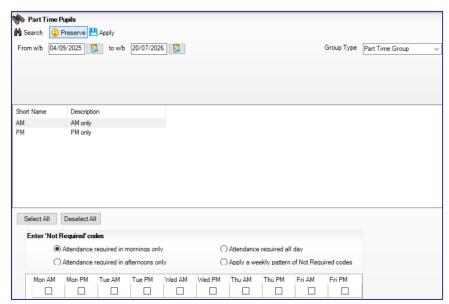
Using the Part-Time Pupils Routine to Add 'Not Required' Codes

If you have no part time pupils, please proceed to Housekeeping Routines in SIMS.

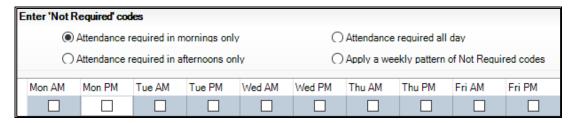
- 1. Select Tools | Setups | Attendance Setup | Part Time Pupils to display the Part Time Pupils page.
- 2. Enter the date range appropriate to the period for which your chosen group will be part time.

The dates must lie within the academic year.

NOTE: It is recommended to add the **not required codes** over a maximum of one term at a time, rather than the whole academic year.



- 3. **Highlight** the required group(s).
- 4. Specify when attendance is required by selecting one of the radio buttons:
 - Attendance required in mornings only
 - Attendance required in afternoons only
 - Attendance required all day

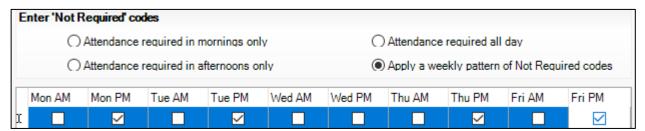


5. Select this option when a part-time pupil starts full-time school.

All 'Not Required' codes for the pupil are removed from the system.

Apply a weekly pattern of Not Required codes

- 1. Select this option if a mixture of AM and PM sessions is required. The associated grid is then enabled. Select the check boxes that represent the sessions when the pupils are **not** required to attend school.
- 2. In the following example, the pupils are expected to attend Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday morning, and all day Wednesday.



3. Existing marks can be protected or overwritten. This is achieved by clicking **Preserve** or **Overwrite**.



4. Click **Apply** to apply the codes to the selected part-time pupils.

NOTE: If **Overwrite** is selected, SIMS saves the specified pattern of marks (overwriting any existing marks), for all sessions in the selected range of weeks.

IT DOES NOT OVERWRITE ANY EXISTING NOT REQUIRED CODES (X) IN A PUPIL'S ATTENDANCE.

The original Not Required Code must be removed first in Edit Marks and overwritten with – (no mark). Once this has been completed, re-run the Part Time Pupil routine.

Enter Part-Time Pupils End Dates

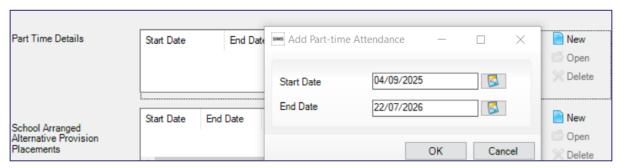
This is mostly relevant to Nursery schools (or schools with nursery age children).

Part-time pupils moving to full time education must have an end date on their Part-Time Details panel.

NOTE: Part time pupils data is collected in the termly school census returns.

Full-time pupils should have their **Attendance Mode** changed to **All Day**. **Note:** this information does not pull through in the school census returns.

- 1. Select Focus | Pupil | Pupil Details and select the required pupil from the Find Pupil browser.
- 2. Click the **Registration** hyperlink to display the **Registration** panel.
- 3. In the Part Time Details panel, click Open to display the Edit Part-time Attendance dialog.
- 4. Check or amend the **End Date** for part-time pupils who will no longer be part-time in September.
- 5. Click OK and Save.



We recommend recording an Early Years Attendance Pattern (refer to Appendix D – Setting up and Defining Early Years Provisions).

Updating the 'Selected Academic Year' on the Home Page

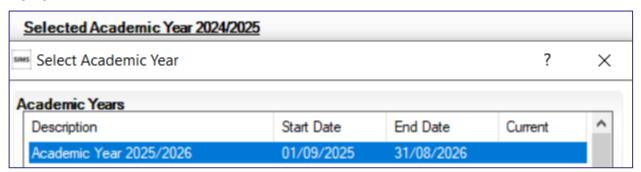
The Academic Year on the Home Page does NOT automatically update when the next Academic Year 'rolls over'. This is a manual routine, and if not updated, may affect some functionality in SIMS.

Note: Every workstation must be updated individually.

1. SIMS Home Page click 'Selected Academic Year 2024/2025 to open a 'Select Academic Year window.



2. Highlight Academic Year 2024/2025 and click OK.



- 3. Click **OK** on the warning message and return to the Home Page.
- 4. The Selected Academic Year on the Home Page should now read 2025/2026.

Import CTF's for New Pupils

Ensure you have received and imported a CTF for all new pupils on roll from their previous schools. Refer to page 17.

Export CTF's for Leavers

Ensure a CTF has been sent for all leavers from your school to their destination (ie. new school or LA). Refer to page 40.

Further guidance is available from:

https://schoolsweb.buckscc.gov.uk/school-management-support/common-transfer-file-ctf/

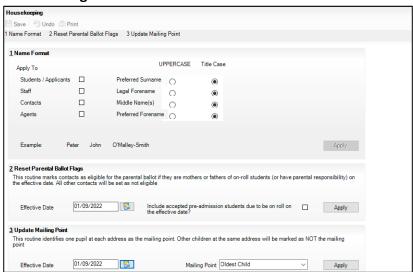
Housekeeping Routines in SIMS

General housekeeping routines should be run in SIMS to check every record held in SIMS against its specific validation checks.

Refer to the latest guidance **Data Cleansing and GDPR Housekeeping Routines in SIMS** available on ICT Zone https://schoolsweb.buckscc.gov.uk/ict-zone/schools-mis-team/sims-guidance-notes/

Reset Parental Ballot Flags and Update Mailing Point

- Select Tools | Housekeeping | General
- 2. Reset Parental Ballot Flags panel click Apply.
- Update Mailing Point panel select either Oldest Child or Youngest Child and click Apply.



NOTE: The **Update Mailing Point** routine does not recognise which out of twins or triplets is the eldest/youngest and marks them all as the mailing point.

To resolve, open one of their pupil records, **Panel 5 Family/Home** and **remove the tick** from Mailing Point for required pupils, until only one child in the family has mailing point ticked.

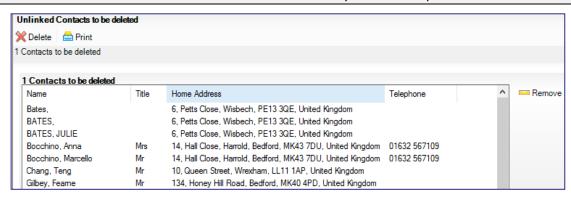
Delete Unlinked Contacts

- 1. This routine identifies any records in your database not linked to Pupil, Applicant or Personnel records. These unlinked contact records can be deleted.
- 2. Select Tools | Housekeeping | Delete Unlinked Contacts.
- 3. Click Search.
- 4. Click the drop down arrow by Select and Select All.



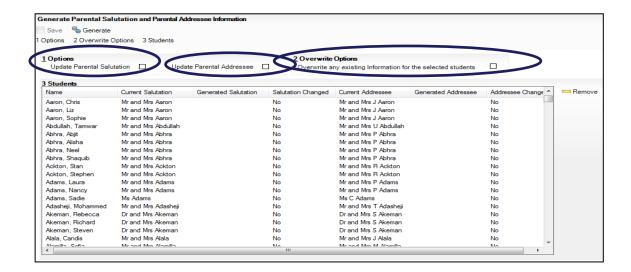
- 5. This will populate the Unlinked Contacts to be deleted window.
- 6. Click **Delete** to delete all **Unlinked Contacts.**

It is recommended to delete a maximum of 12 records at any one time to prevent the database timing out.

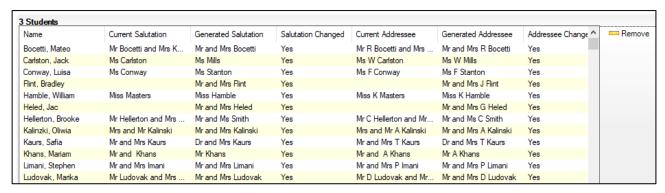


Update Parental Salutation/Addressee

- 1. Select Routines | Pupil | Update Parental Salutation/Addressee.
- 2. Click Search.
- 3. Click the drop-down arrow by Select and Select All.
- 4. This will populate the Generate Parental Salutation and Parental Addressee Information panel.
- 5. Tick Update Parental Salutation and Update Parental Addressee.



- 6. **Overwrite Options** tick **Overwrite any existing Information for the selected students** <u>unless</u> you have existing information you do not wish to overwrite.
- 7. Click Generate.



8. Save the changes.

Records may not generate a salutation and addressee for a variety of reasons:

- The relationship between the contacts and the pupil is not mother or father. **Step-parent** or **foster parent** relationships **will not** generate a salutation and addressee.
- In this instance you will need to manually enter the salutation and addressee on the pupil record via **Focus | Pupil | Pupil Details | Panel 5: Family/Home** and type the salutation and addressee.
- One parent does not live with the child.
- In this instance the database is performing as expected. A salutation and addressee will not be generated to include a parent who does not live with the pupil.

Missing Parental House Icon



The parental contact <u>does not</u> have a House icon on the pupil record but does live with the pupil. In the example, the Mother has a House icon but the Father does not.

In this instance further investigation is required. There may be a duplicate address in the database.

Pupil Premium Indicator (Bulk Update) for 2025/26 Academic Year

The **Pupil Premium Indicator** for the 2024/25 will be removed at the start of the 2025/26 academic year. It can be re-populated via two methods:

- 1. Routines | Pupil | Bulk Update | Bulk Update Students
- 2. Student Population Panel: Select the relevant Group Type, Group, Effective Date (of pupils on roll)
- 3. Update Data Item Panel: Select the Data Item of Pupil Premium Indicator and Effective Date
- 4. Select Search.
- 5. Tick the relevant pupils.
- 6. Select Save.

OR import the Pupil Premium Import to bulk update. This is released in March & October.

https://services.signin.education.gov.uk/

- 1. DfE Get Information About Pupils | Data Downloads.
- 2. Download the **Pupil Premium Report** and **save as** a **.csv file**.
- 3. Import into SIMS via: Tools | Pupil Premium | Import

Note: This will not include any new pupils starting in September or those who joined your school after the January census.

Enter the Pupil Premium Indicator manually.

Appendix A Recording Changes to Teaching Staff in Personnel

Introduction

The details of new teachers joining the school should be recorded as soon as the information is available (non-teacher information can be added when known, but is not required for the end of year process). Any existing teachers who are leaving the school should be allocated leaving dates

NOTE: An Employment History can have a future Date of Leaving ie. an employee that is leaving at the end of term. An employee can also have a subsequent Employment History, but this cannot be created until after the previous Employment History Date of Leaving.

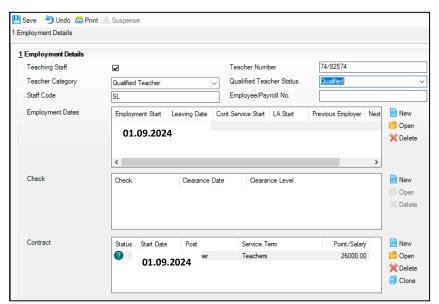
Adding New Teachers in Personnel

Initially, only **Basic Details** and **Employment Details** need to be entered. Further details can be added as they are known.

- 1. Select Focus | Person | Staff to display the Find Employee browser.
- 2. Click **New** to display the **Add Employee** page. Enter the **Surname**, and initial of **Forename**.



- 3. Click **Continue**. SIMS checks to see if the member of staff already exists. If no entry exists, the **Staff Details** page is populated with the data just entered.
- 4. Click the **Employment Details** hyperlink to display the **Employment Details** panel.
- Select the **Teaching Staff** check box for all teaching staff.
- This activates the Teacher Category drop-down list.



NOTE: It is important to identify teachers by selecting this check box as it ensures teachers are included in all applicable statutory returns and available to assign to Reg Groups.

- 7. Select the required Teacher Category (eg. Qualified Teacher) from the drop-down list.
- 8. Enter a unique **Staff Code** of up to three characters if required.
- 9. Enter a **Teacher Number** if required, which must be in the format NN/NNNNN, where N represents a number, eg. **00/12345**.
- 10. Select the required **Qualified Teacher Status** from the drop-down list.
- 11. In the **Employment Dates** panel, click **New** and enter the **Employment Start** date. If the information is available, enter the **Continuous Service Start Date**, **Local Authority Start Date**, and name of the **Previous Employer**, but this could be entered at a later date. **NOTES** can also be entered. Click **OK**.
- 12. Click Save to add the member of staff. Repeat for any other members of staff joining the school.

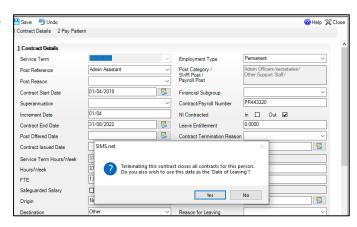
Adding Leaving Dates for Existing Staff

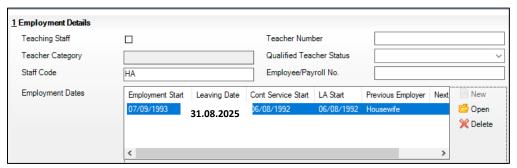
Enter leaving dates for any teachers as soon as they have left your school.

- 1. Select Focus | Person | Staff to display the Find Staff browser.
- 2. Search for and then double-click the required member of staff to display the **Employee Details** page.
- Click the Employment Details hyperlink to display the Employment Details panel. Close any existing contracts by clicking Open and entering the Contract End Date and Destination, reason for leaving – this information is vital for the School Workforce Census. Save these changes.

A message will be displayed stating "Terminating this contract will close all contracts for this person. Do you wish to use this date as the Date of Leaving?"

- Select Yes.
- The Pay Scale End Date, Role End Date and Employment End Date will also be populated.
- 6. **Save** the staff record.





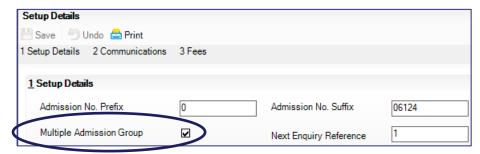
Appendix B Dates of Birth/Year Groups for Pupils in Academic Year 2025-2026

Year Group	Date of Birth Range for 2025-26 Academic Year	Age Range
E1	01/09/2024 to 31/08/2025	0 – 1
E2	01/09/2023 to 31/08/2024	1-2
N1	01/09/2022 to 31/08/2023	2 – 3
N2	01/09/2021 to 31/08/2022	3 – 4
R	01/09/2020 to 31/08/2021	4 – 5
1	01/09/2019 to 31/08/2020	5 – 6
2	01/09/2018 to 31/08/2019	6 – 7
3	01/09/2017 to 31/08/2018	7 – 8
4	01/09/2016 to 31/08/2017	8 – 9
5	01/09/2015 to 31/08/2016	9 – 10
6	01/09/2014 to 31/08/2015	10 – 11
7	01/09/2013 to 31/08/2014	11 – 12
8	01/09/2012 to 31/08/2013	12 – 13
9	01/09/2011 to 31/08/2012	13 – 14
10	01/09/2010 to 31/08/2011	14 – 15
11	01/09/2009 to 31/08/2010	15 – 16
12	01/09/2008 to 31/08/2009	16 – 17
13	01/09/2007 to 31/08/2008	17 – 18
14	01/09/2006 to 31/08/2007	18 – 19
	after 01/09/2007	19+

Appendix C Admissions Module Set Up

Setup Multiple Admission Groups

- 1. Select Tools | Admission | Defaults.
- 2. Tick Multiple Admission Group and Save settings.



3. Close SIMS and log in to activate Multiple Admission Groups

Once Applicants have been admitted on roll from admission the Admission records, and Admission groups can be tidied.

- Admission records for applicants not admitted on roll, and who the school have no need to keep the data for, can be deleted.
- Historical Admission Groups can also be deleted.

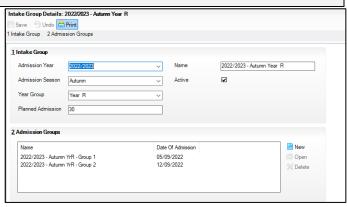
Adding Multiple Admission Groups.

Routines | Admissions | Admissions Group | Set Up

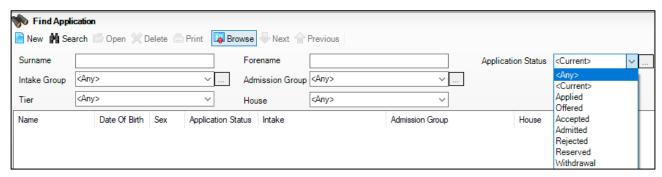
- 1. **Search** for the **Intake Group** to add another admission group to and **Open** the Intake Group.
- 2. From Panel 2: Admission Groups, click New to display the Add Admission Group dialog.
- 3. Enter a **Name** (This must be different to the Intake).
- 4. Group name, even if just by character spacing) for the admission group, together with the **Date of Admission**. Alternatively, click the **Calendar** and select the required date.
- 5. Click **OK** to add the admission group and return to the **Intake Group Details** page.
- 6. If any further admission groups are required, click New and repeat steps 1 and 2.

NOTE: Even if you are set up to allow multiple admission groups you may find it easier just to assign one admission group to each intake group.

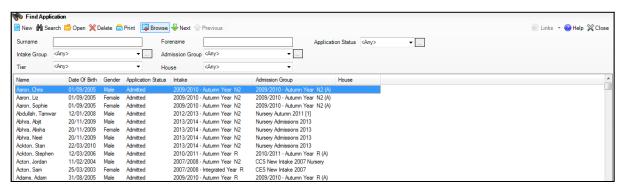
- 7. **Save** to create the intake and admission groups.
- 8. Once admission groups have been created, you can add any applicants to SIMS and assign them to the required admission group.



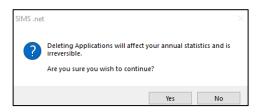
Tidying Admission Records

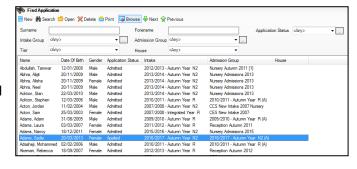


- 1. Focus | Admission | Application
- 2. Click the Application Status dropdown, scroll right to the top and select <Any>.
- 3. Click **Search**, to populate the window with all existing pre-admission records.
- 4. The records appear in alphabetical order, click the heading **Application Status** to sort them by this column.



- Records with a status of **Admitted** must be retained.
- Applicant Records with future admission dates with a status of Applied, Offered or Accepted <u>must</u> also be retained.
- All other records can be deleted.
- 5. Highlight the record to delete.
- 6. Click **Delete** at the top of the screen.
- 7. Click **Yes** in the pop-up window.
- 8. Repeat this process until all unwanted records are removed from your system.



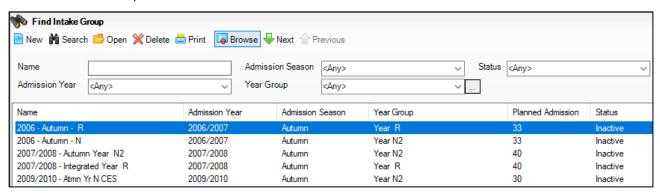


Tidying Admission Groups

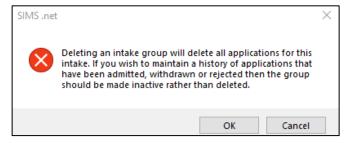
- 1. Once you have tidied the Admission Records, then tidy up your Admission Groups.
- 2. Routines | Admission | Admission Groups | Setup
- 3. Click the **Status** dropdown and select **<Any>**.



- 4. Click **Search** to populate the window with all existing Admission groups.
- 5. Historic Admission groups can be deleted.
- 6. **Highlight** the Group to delete.
- 7. Click **Delete** at the top of the screen.



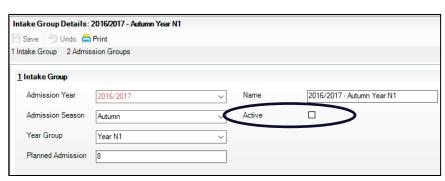
8. Click **OK** in the pop-up window.



NOTE: Admission Groups cannot be deleted if there are current applications associated with it. This should be resolved by tidying Admission records. However, if you are still unable to delete an historic Admission Group you will need to make it inactive.

Making Admission Groups Inactive

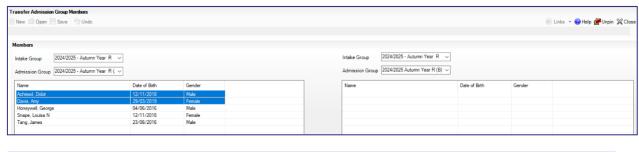
- 1. Double click the Admission Group to open the record.
- 2. Remove the Active tick
- 3. **Save** the record.



Transferring New Intake Students Between Intake Groups

It is possible to move pupils from one intake or admission group to another. For example, if you have imported your ATF including all Reception pupils but operate a pre-agreed "staggered start" for this cohort.

- 1. Select Routines | Admission | Admission Groups | Transfer Applications.
- 2. Select the appropriate intake group in the left-hand browser and in the right-hand browser.
- 3. Select all pupils who should be moved into a different admission group in the left-hand browser and click the **right-pointing** arrow to move them to the right-hand browser.





- 4. Click **Save** and observe the message regarding admission groups.
- 5. Click OK.



- 6. You can check this by returning to the **Focus | Admission | Application**.
- 7. Change the **Intake Group** filter to the required group and click **Search**.
- 8. **Close** the applicant screen.

Appendix D Setting Up and Defining Early Years Provisions

Introduction

Schools with a dedicated nursery unit, that offer early years care, must present parents of three to four year olds with the choice of varying nursery hours on any day of the week. Parents are now entitled to receive 15 hours of free nursery provision per week, which can be taken over a minimum of three days. They can choose to take as much or as little of the 15 hours and use their entitlement at more than one nursery provider, if they wish.

Attendance Setup includes the facility to define Early Years Provisions, from which Early Years Attendance patterns can be created for applicable applicants and pupils, in order to calculate Hours at Setting for nursery age pupils, for School Census purposes

Defining a New Early Years Provision

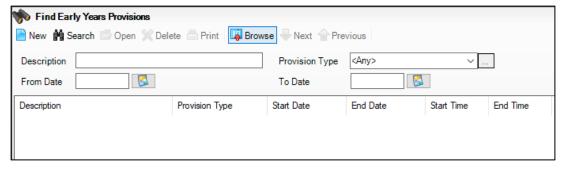
A pupil can only have one provision type per day; therefore the provision types must be defined accordingly. If provision times overlap sessions, a decision as to which session to map to must be made, eg. should a 9.00am to 2.00pm provision be mapped to an **AM** or an **All-Day** category.

Four predefined Nursery Care Provision Type lookups are available for selection when defining or editing an early year's provision:

- Provision 1
- Provision 2
- Provision 3
- No Provision.

These Provision Type lookups can be edited or deleted.

1. Tools | Setups | Attendance Setup | Early Years Provisions Setup to display Find Early Years Provisions browser.



2. Click New to display the Early Years Provision Details page

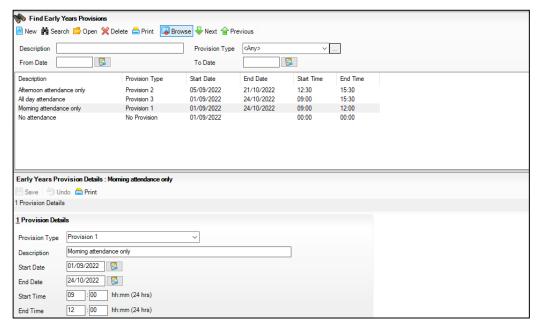


- 3. Select the required **Provision Type** from the drop-down list, eg. Provision 1.
- 4. By default, the selected **Provision Type** is displayed in the **Description** field. This description can be edited to describe the nursery care provision more clearly, eg. Morning Nursery Care, if required.
- 5. By default, the **Start Date** is displayed as today's date. If necessary, edit the date to indicate when the nursery care provision is to start or click the **Calendar** and select the required date.
- 6. Optionally, enter an **End Date** for the provision (if known) or click the **Calendar** and select the required date. This date can be entered later.
- 7. Select a **Start Time** and an **End Time** for the provision from the respective drop-down lists, eg. 09.30 to 12.00. Times are available in increments of 30 minutes
- 8. Click Save.

Editing an Early Years Provision

All aspects of a nursery care provision can be edited regardless of whether it is currently being used or not. Therefore, the provision types, associated start and end dates, and the start and end time can all be amended, if required.

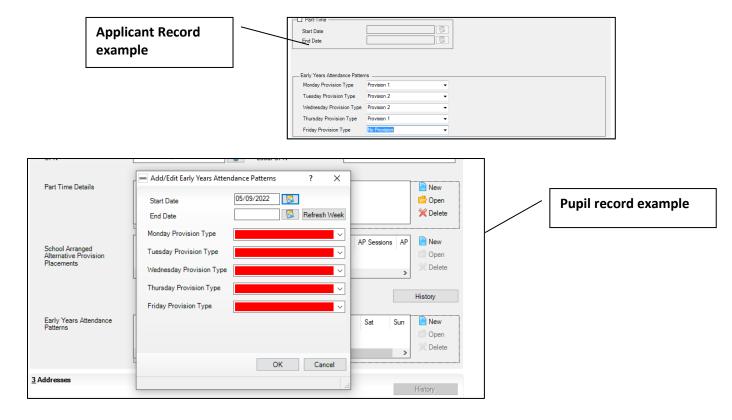
1. Click Search to display the Early Years Provision Details and open to edit.



- 2. Select a different Provision Type from the drop-down list, if required.
- 3. Make the changes
- 4. Click **Save** to retain your changes.

Setting up Early Years Provision on an Applicant or Pupil record

- 1. Locate the relevant pupil(s) via Focus / Pupil Details or Focus / Admission / Applicant
- 2. Open the applicant or pupil record and move to the Registration panel (panel 2).



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