SIMS Next Gen for Administrators Q&A – 4th July 2025

Question	Response
How easy is it to do the academic structure and pastoral structure for the new school year?	We have not released academic year end functionality in SIMS Next Gen. When we do we will be moving away from the file tree structure of SIMS 7 for creating and updating pastoral structures. Pastoral Groups in SIMS Next Gen is due for release in the 2025 Autumn term. Pastoral promotion and Academic promotion ins SIMS next Gen are schedule for release during the 2026 Spring term.
Hello, we will still use SIMS 7 to access the student link tab? To see documents, exclusions, examinations info etc?	Yes, until these functions move across into SIMS Next Gen they continue to be available in SIMS7.
In our school case, we have two schools under single DFE, it is possible to have figures/graphs in different levels (example: School A % of attendance, School B % of attendance and Combined A+B % of attendance?	Next Gen homepage dashboard will not do this it may be possible through the Attendance reports based on using tiers functionality.
Regarding medical incidents. These are usually recorded by a TA or First Aider. Is there an option to give access to just record medical incidents, without having access to the rest of the system? TA's do not usually have access to SIMS.	In SIMS Next Gen this would be via the pupil record or via Class View access to either of these areas would be required by TA's.
We use SIMS Parent / Student apps - with conduct, in September, will we be able to inform parents via NextGen of detentions? Currently it's very convoluted going through SIMS Engagement!	At the start of the Autumn term the existing functionality will be in place. The Next Gen Conduct functionality will be released at the earliest in late September at which point it will write back to SIMS7 and the existing engagement functionality. This

	engagement functionality will be updated to our new next gen engagement solution, which will be rolled out during 2026 starting in March.
Is there a way where new student's application can be typed in by the student's parents and automatically updates the application in SIMS to be processed? Is there any extra costs to integrate this function (between parents typing and uploading the data in SIMS application/admissions?)	We have a commercial partner that is allows for parents to complete online forms. If there is a specific school that would like details and costs please identify, and your account manager will be happy to provide details, pricing and demonstrations as required.
How are staff marked as being absence or present? Do they have to sign in to SIMS to be marked as present? How does this work for support staff without a laptop or device?	The recording of absences in SIMS Next Gen is recorded by someone with the full access to the personnel section. Staff are marked absent by their working patterns showing that they are not required to be present or an Absence is recorded. This works in the same way for teaching and non-teaching staff. Future development will allow staff to request their own absences.
SIMS 7 is quite slow in our school due to heavy data base (over 2500 students), would SIMS NexGen be slower because it has some "extra" communication/inter-connection between front base and back base systems?	SIMS Next Gen is built on completely different scalable modern micro services architecture so does not suffer the elements of slow operation caused by large datasets on our legacy architecture.
Who will be responsible to add permission in SIMS Next Gen regarding what can be viewed, which fields are mandatory and which fields are optional please? Same as adding new fields we may find useful. Can we adapt it to our specific school's needs?	Permissions for user rights and for system configuration will work in a similar way to SIMS 7 but be controlled through the new SIMS Next Gen Admin console, which currently (July 2025) as access to settings and customisation for Attendance, Class View, Pupil Profile and Staff, with many more areas to come.

Can you add a medical incident type - we only seem to have accident and illness not medication administered?	Medication is a separate section from medical incident. You can add further options to medical incidents this is currently added in SIMS 7 and will then appear in SIMS Next Gen.
If conduct writes back to SIMS 7 will it then send out a conduct alert to parents via SIMS Parent	It will be able to do it exactly as it does now with conduct data captured in SIMS Next Gen as it does with Data captured in SIMS7.
Is it possible to show some examples about how the Census Autumn will look like please?	Not at this time. The Autumn census 2025 will be completed in SIMS 7.
I have noticed some items that we don't seem to have currently in SIMS for example: National Insurance Number. Would it be different reports from SIMS next gen for fields that are not in the normal SIMS 7, please?	Reporting functionality will be release in Autumn and throughout 2026 to enable reporting from SIMS Next Gen directly including it's new unique fields.
Is there a function where the parents could inform changes and automatically shows in SIMS, please? example: mobile, email, address change, etc.	This will be part of the update to the Engagement package. And can currently be completed using SIMS 7 and the SIMS Parent App Lite or Parent App
As an administrator I am responsible for setting up all the marksheets for assessments, and for producing and sending the individual reports. My marksheets have a number of calculations, both to aid the teacher in filling it in, such as a colour coded flag when a student is off target. I cannot see any of my calculations in Next Gen, when will these be available? Next year their overall ATL is based on an average of learning skills grades, will this calculation be visible in Next Gen marksheets? Will the values be calculated in SIMS 7 when the data syncs back or will I be required to open	Assessment management functions are coming to SIMS Next Gen in Spring 2026, until then the practise you are following is recommended.

and calculate each marksheet to generate the values?	
If conduct is being switched back on in time for September, does it need to be configured in Next Gen separately or will it all carry over from SIMS 7? I am not sure there is time during the very busy admissions and new year set up to configure and test that!	Conduct will be available for Early Adopter (EA) schools at the start of September. All configuration and data will be in sync and write back between SIMS7 and SNG meaning that your SIMS7 behaviour, achievement, detention and report cards settings and data will reflect in SNG. Once we have feedback from EA schools that the data sync between SIMS7 and SNG is robust, we will release to all schools. If a follow up conversation is needed, please do not hesitate to contact paul.featherstone@parentpay.com.
Is the Living with symbol able to cope where a child lives 50/50 with both parents? Will both parents be able to show the house symbol?	As far as I am aware they have to have one home address.