



**SIMS**

helping  
schools  
inspire

## How can you ensure your school has *all the answers* when the inspectors call?

Schools need access to a real time assessment of how they're performing on every level and a snapshot of where further improvement needs to take place. This information helps school leaders drive achievement, improve their schools and ensure that they have evidence to hand to validate the good work they are doing when an Ofsted inspection takes place.

The latest Ofsted changes mean that schools will receive less warning of an impending inspection. Since the 'satisfactory' category has now been removed, schools will have to be 'good' or 'outstanding' in order to avoid being judged as requiring improvement. With so much riding on the result of an inspection, heads must adopt an 'always prepared' policy so they can confidently show an accurate picture of their school when the inspectors arrive.

### The role of data

The ability to use data effectively is now essential for any headteacher or senior leader in a school. In an inspection, heads will need to have access to current information on behaviour, attendance and exclusions, and be able to show evidence of achievement for specific groups of pupils.

*"No school is faultless. Schools need the right tools to analyse their data and extract the relevant information to help them highlight and tackle weaknesses and consolidate their strengths. An MIS has become an essential instrument for the school leader in this process, helping build the foundations for sustained school improvement."*

**Brian Lightman, General Secretary of ASCL**

### HOW SIMS HELPS

Schools need to have all the answers at the ready when the inspectors come calling and for an increasing number of schools, SIMS is filling this gap.

When you have access to information on all areas of school performance at the touch of a button, an inspection by Ofsted becomes an opportunity to demonstrate your school's progress and success. SIMS gives you access to a real time assessment of how your school is performing on every level. It also offers an evaluation of where further development is needed so you can continually progress.

## Achievement of pupils

In an inspection, you need to show that you are helping every pupil progress. With SIMS Discover, you can examine current data to demonstrate the progress of groups such as those eligible for free school meals (FSM), SEN and Pupil Premium pupils. The new SIMS Homepage displays an overview of the school so both you and the inspection team have a current picture of what is happening in the classroom.

Catherine Roberts, Deputy Head at Wimbledon Chase Primary School explains how SIMS Discover was put to the test when Ofsted announced an inspection. Catherine was able to carry out the necessary analysis the day before the inspectors arrived. "Within 24 hours I had everything I needed to hand, which would have been absolutely impossible before we had SIMS Discover."

## Quality of teaching

You need to prove that your school's teaching is effective. With Staff Performance enhancements to SIMS Personnel, you can assess the teaching in your school. Holding all information on individual objectives and lesson observations centrally, you can build a complete picture of every staff member. You can also manage staff appraisals, performance-related pay decisions and use pupil data to identify good teaching practices and inform training needs.

## Behaviour and safety of pupils

SIMS can help you understand where behaviour and attendance issues are occurring and provide insight into attitudes to learning and lesson punctuality. You can analyse data to see if certain pupils are consistently late or if certain pupils are having a big impact on behaviour. Teachers can log incidents as they happen in SIMS Lesson Monitor so that you are working with today's attendance data and this morning's behaviour points.

School leaders should know what is working in a school and what is not. SIMS real-time data helps you track the impact of the strategies you put in place. Pupil progress can be measured by specific groups and evaluated in the context of behaviour and punctuality. SIMS Personnel ensures school leaders can assess teaching quality and identify training needs easily and with SIMS NOVA-T6 you can timetable staff according to their strengths.



## The full power of SIMS

To provide you with a solid structure for your school improvement goals, our new school improvement programme enables you to harness your data to drive improved teaching and learning. Our specialist consultants have all worked as senior leaders and have a proven track-record in helping schools provide evidence of improvement to parents, governors and Ofsted.

Your programme will be tailor-made for your school. The initial part of the programme focuses on the data collection and analysis part of the cycle to ensure you have strong foundations on which to build each of the other areas on. It also enables you to identify your priorities for improvement.

## Training and additional support

SIMS Consultancy Services can help you release the full potential of SIMS quickly in your school so you can start making an impact on your inspection preparation immediately. We also offer training courses tailored to your school's specific needs.

Find out more

For more information about how SIMS can help you prepare for your next inspection please contact us on **+44 (0)1285 647 459** or email **info@capita-independent.co.uk**

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