



## SIMS to roll out to all 26 GEMS National Curriculum for England schools in the UAE

### Customer-at-a-glance

GEMS Education began in Dubai in 1959. Their mission was to put a quality education within the reach of every child. Each day they educate around 190,000 students from over 176 countries through GEMS owned and managed schools globally; over 270,000 students access resources through their services division; and they will impact 20 million students by 2020 through the initiatives of their charity partner, the Varkey Foundation.

#### Number of Students

190,000

#### Capita customer

Since 2012

Ian Stewart Jones was appointed Principal and CEO of GEMS Education in June 2013. One of his first tasks was to open the new English curriculum Metropole School in Dubai in 2014, and implementing a new Management Information System (MIS) was a key element of this. Ian introduced SIMS into the school, and now in his new role as Vice President Schools he is planning further rollouts to the GEMS National Curriculum for England group.

*I see SIMS as the backbone of the National Curriculum for England GEMS schools; it has a number of unique features and it's straightforward to use.*

**Ian Stewart Jones, Vice President Schools, GEMS Education**

### Challenges

Before Ian joined GEMS, a number of the schools were already using SIMS although this wasn't consistent across the group. Some were using legacy, manual systems, which according to Ian needed "regular extensions and had a finite shelf life" as GEMS grew.

The inconsistent approach to information management across a growing organisation was not ideal for Ian, who wanted to introduce replicable processes to make school and group data easier for users to mine and manage. Ian's ultimate goal is to bring all information across the schools into one central repository for a single viewpoint, which would not be possible using all the different systems in place.

Ian had positive experiences of using SIMS in previous roles and after a market review, he decided to begin discussions with the SIMS team to see what could be done at GEMS.

### The solution

The SIMS team began working with Ian and GEMS to show them how SIMS could be easily rolled out across the schools, and replicable processes quickly implemented. Ian was looking for a cost-effective solution that would support the schools' changing needs for years to come, and one that would enable them to easily evaluate their strengths and track improvements. Ian decided to move forward with SIMS, rolling it out across 16 GEMS schools. .

## Benefits

Introducing any new school system can be challenging, yet according to Ian, implementing SIMS at GEMS took place in an organised and pain-free way. Ian believes GEMS now benefits from ease of use, economies of scale and a solution that will support the schools into the future. He is also impressed with the ability to integrate SIMS with third-party systems, which he believes other MIS providers are unable to do. The modules within SIMS and the benefits that Ian values include:

- SIMS Assessment**  
 Using SIMS Assessment, teachers at GEMS schools can track and benchmark an individual's progress against the school's assessment policy, access this information to support pupil progress, and provide timely interventions if needed.
- SIMS Discover**  
 Award-winning SIMS Discover provides graphical visibility and analysis of trends, and in-depth comparisons of group or class performance. It enables bespoke reporting that allows GEMS to analyse data and present it in a variety of ways in readiness for KHDA inspections.
- Programmes of Study**  
 The Programmes of Study screen within SIMS gives GEMS teachers access to the entire national curriculum to track and assess pupil performance. Teachers can customise statements or provide summative judgements for pupils to indicate which phase of the curriculum they are working within for any subject. GEMS can adapt Programmes of Study to support the specific needs of each school.
- SIMS Teacher app**  
 The Teacher app makes classroom management easier for teachers, including registration, monitoring conduct and assessment tasks.

A number of GEMS schools have now moved from a 'good' to an 'outstanding' rating, in part due to the improved data management systems and the ability to extract bespoke reports for KHDA inspections.

Ian says the main benefits of working with the SIMS team are their understanding and availability. Although based in the UK, Ian's Account Manager is always available for meetings and Ian feels he understands the vision he has for the group. He concludes by saying: "SIMS is reliable, flexible and searchable, and put simply, the best on the market."

Plans are now in place to roll out SIMS across all 26 GEMS National Curriculum for England schools in the UAE in the next year. The ultimate vision is to achieve a streamlined and consolidated view of the entire group's data.

*This is a competitive marketplace where parents are not afraid to move their children to a different school if they are not happy. SIMS has supported both retention and growth in many of our schools, with improved assessment, reporting and communication with parents.*

**Ian Stewart Jones, Vice President  
Schools, GEMS Education**

# CAPITA

**To find out more about SIMS for international schools, call +44 (0)1285 647500 or email [info@capita-independent.co.uk](mailto:info@capita-independent.co.uk)**