

A photograph of a woman and a young girl looking at a smartphone together. The woman is on the right, wearing a teal puffer jacket, and the girl is on the left, wearing a dark blue quilted jacket. They are both smiling and looking down at the phone. The background is slightly blurred, showing some greenery.

**SIMS**

**ONE APP TO  
DRIVE PARENTAL  
ENGAGEMENT**

## HOW SIMS HELPS...

SIMS offers much more than a world-class management information system - we help schools inspire. We've worked alongside schools for over 30 years, helping them to drive improvement and support every child to achieve.

We help school leaders make informed decisions and give the whole school the tools to raise attainment.

We surveyed over 1,000 parents and 850 teachers at English state primary schools. The research revealed that over half of parents (57%) feel that school reports are either too generic or do not have enough information about how their child is doing. More than a third of primary school teachers (35%) agreed with this view.

Whether it's written reports, parents' evenings or an email sent home, the possibilities are endless when it comes to the ways in which schools can communicate with parents. With schools now recording more information than ever before about the children in their care, there is a wealth of information that schools could be sharing with parents.

This guide outlines how our parental engagement solution works to provide schools with one app to drive parental engagement.

# 57%

of **parents** say that school reports are either **too generic** or do not contain enough information about how their child is doing



# 35%

of primary school teachers agree

## ONE APP TO DRIVE PARENTAL ENGAGEMENT

### Engage parents with every aspect of school life

Parents' evenings should focus on addressing the real issues rather than bringing parents up-to-speed. SIMS holds a vast quantity of information about every student, so why not share some of it with parents? The **SIMS Parent app** allows schools to easily communicate with parents. Whether it's sharing information on attendance, homework or school reports, parents can stay on top of their child's progress. A clear dashboard gives parents an overview of their child's school life, making for more meaningful conversation at parents' evenings.

### Safeguard your students

From the moment they enter the school gates, parents want to know their child is in safe hands. With communication tools such as **SIMS InTouch**, schools can notify parents straight away if their child hasn't arrived at school. Parents can quickly reply with the reason for their child's absence.

With the **SIMS Parent Lite app**, schools can collect the most up-to-date data about students and their parents, to comply with the GDPR requirement for data accuracy. Schools have the ability to send notifications to parents,

reminding them to update their details, reducing manual data entry and eliminating paper-based data collection.

The **SIMS Parent Lite app** provides parents with a convenient and accessible way to electronically review and request changes to the data held on them and their children. Using the app, parents can provide additional information on crucial details such as medical information or dietary requirements and once a request has been submitted, automatic emails are sent to nominated SIMS admin accounts.

"The SIMS Parent app offers our parents easy and convenient access to attainment, attendance and achievement records via their smartphones. We anticipate achieving even greater levels of parental engagement."

Steve Floyd, Network and System Manager, Goffs Academy



## Communicate quickly

It can often be hard to get in contact with parents who may be busy at work and unable to answer your calls. Can you be sure information that you send home with students reaches parents? Whether parents prefer to receive a text message, an email or log in to an app, our all-in-one solution helps you to ensure that parents are always kept up-to-date.

The **SIMS Parent app** helps to make parents much more accessible. The app pushes information directly to parents for them to view on their phone or tablet at their convenience. There is also a web version available should parents wish to access it through their PC. They can receive alerts if their child has a missed a lesson or not handed in their homework, for example. It also provides an opportunity for schools to gather the most up-to-date information from parents, such as contact details.

“I would definitely use the **SIMS Parent app**. It’s got everything I need and it’s easy to use.”

Parent, Meadowhead School

Communication with parents shouldn’t just be one way. With **SIMS InTouch** you can send messages direct to a parent’s mobile phone or inbox via text message or email relating to behaviour, school closures or unexplained absences, which parents can reply to. **SIMS InTouch** is fully integrated with SIMS so you can send information out at the click of a button, saving you time, postage and telephone costs.

By using the SIMS communication tools, your whole school can be connected by the information already held in SIMS and parents have a complete picture of their child’s school life. Alerts and information can be broadcast to key stakeholders, quickly and easily.

## Make managing and collecting parent payments easier

Managing parent payments can be time consuming for schools and a hassle for parents too. That’s why SIMS provides solutions to help your school effectively manage school payments to make life easier for the admin office and for parents – plus, your students don’t have to carry cash to school.

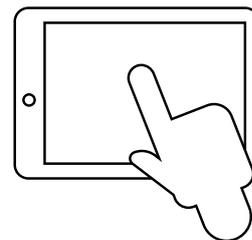
**SIMS Pay** helps you easily collect school payments from parents simply, securely and cost-effectively, whether it’s for school trips, uniform or clubs. Integration with **SIMS Dinner Money** and other cashless catering providers allows parents to receive automatic payment reminders when their child’s school meal balance is low.

With **SIMS Pay** you can also send automatic alerts to parents to collect monies for trips and uniform, and collect parental consent digitally for school activities, helping you to save time and reduce payment administration. Such payments can be made in instalments, helping to ease any financial pressures.

## Motivate students

Engaging students once they’ve left the school gates can often be a struggle, with pieces of paper left at the bottom of bags and homework forgotten about. The **SIMS Student app** aims to engage students, whether they’re in or outside school. Whether it’s viewing their timetable or homework tasks, students can easily access key information directly from their phone, tablet or PC.

Schools can also send alerts to students for example to remind them about a careers fair happening at school tomorrow or a notification to show how they are progressing against targets. Available on iOS, Android or via a web browser, the **SIMS Student app** can be accessed in any way suitable to a student’s lifestyle. Whether they are on the school bus or on their home PC, the information students need is always at their fingertips.



## FEATURES AT A GLANCE

**Manage payments** - make items such as equipment, school uniform or school dinners for sale and collect e-payments.

**Two-way communication** - schools can communicate with parents and students through the app via text and email.

**Manage extra-curricular activities** - schedule activities that can be booked, and promote their adoption to parents and students.

**Encourage student learning** - share achievements, behaviour reports, attendance and test results easily.

**Keep on top of homework** - teachers can set homework, attach supporting documents and collect submissions from students.

**School diary** - make sure students are on time to lessons and extra-curricular activities with their school diary available at their fingertips.

**Accurate data collection** - comply with GDPR requirements and encourage parents to keep the information about their children up to date.

Visit [www.capita.co.uk/pe-solution](http://www.capita.co.uk/pe-solution)  
or contact your SIMS Support Unit  
for further information

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