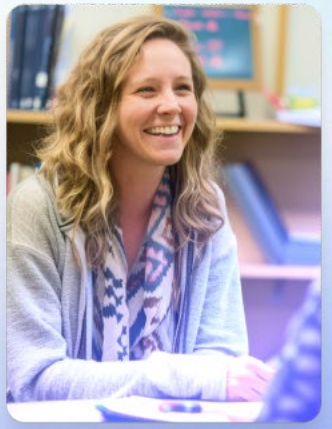
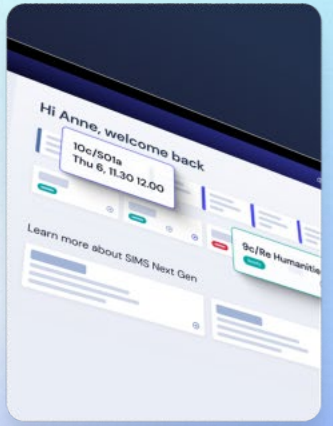
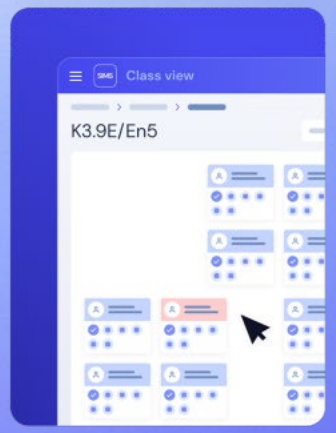
ParentPayGroup

ParentPay Group

SIMS Product Roadmap Highlights







parentpaygroup.com

The journey of SIMS – our development roadmap

In 2022 we acquired SIMS because we saw a technology that was starting to fail schools with a historic lack of investment. We saw that it needed to support schools with the challenges and opportunities of today and tomorrow, and we knew that our experience and expertise could help turn it around to help schools deliver better outcomes for pupils.

Since then, we have been developing new cloud native versions of the functionality available in SIMS, and a huge raft of new features, as part of our exciting SIMS Next Gen programme. This cloud native software update will be complete as planned by the end of 2026.

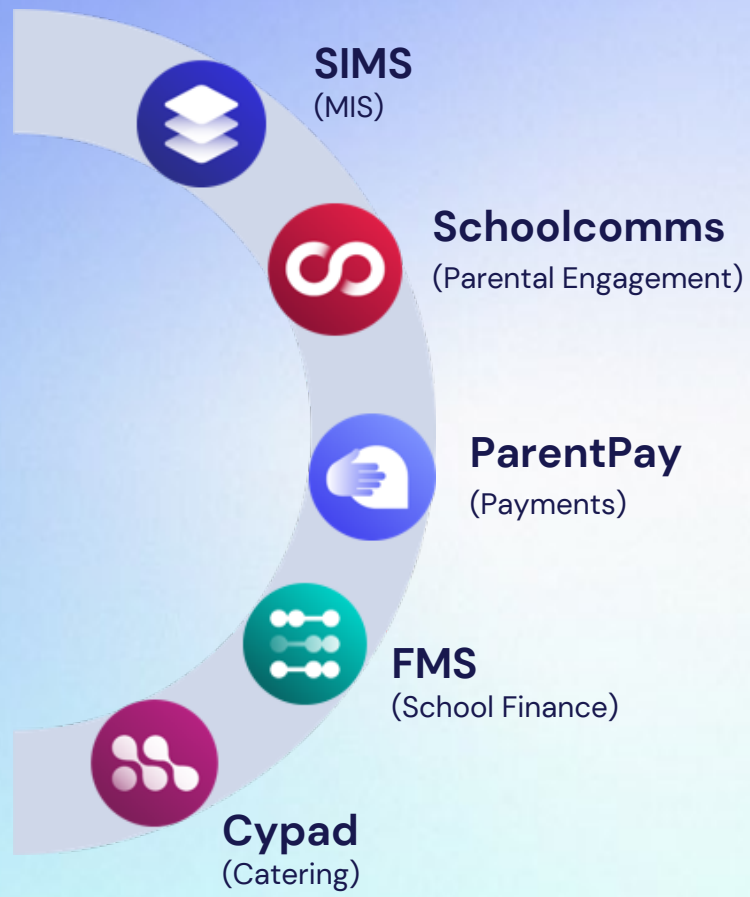
But our investment and product innovation does not stop there. In 2027 we will embark on a fresh phase of development to bring new features to our products and integrate AI in more areas where it can do genuine good.

Welcome to our 2026 / 2027 roadmap highlights

a snapshot of what's been delivered in 2026 so far, what's to come by the end of the year and the plans we have for 2027.

We're really excited for the future and what is possible in partnership with you.

Alistair Gates
Chief Product Officer



£75 million in platform innovation

Landmark investment in the UK education sector

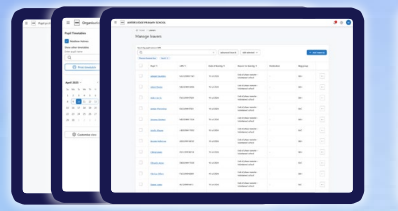
- Payments, parental engagement, and catering unified into stronger, simpler, products and a single app for parents
- SIMS and FMS rebuilt as new, cloud-native platforms for the next generation of schools and MATs.
- One platform by 2026: single login, common APIs.

SIMS functionality LIVE now for schools

80% complete and on track for full completion by the end of 2026

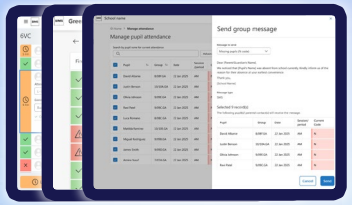
Pupil Management

Pupil Profile, timetables and leavers



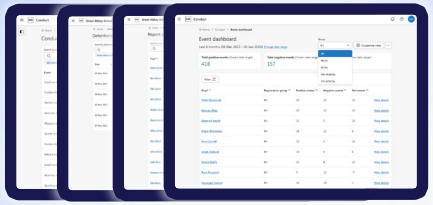
Attendance

Manage Attendance, Registers, Fire Registers



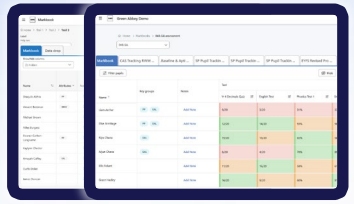
Conduct

Conduct events, Dashboard, Detentions, Suspensions & Exclusions & Report Cards



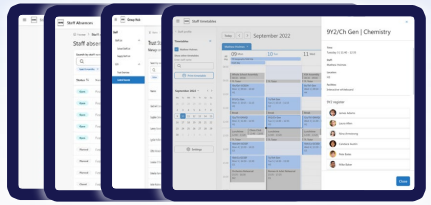
Assessment

My Markbook, Online Marksheets



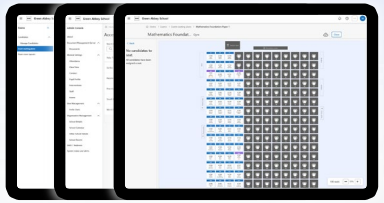
Staff

Staff Profile, Staff Absences, Staff Timetable & SCR



Exams

Exams Seating, Room Layouts, Seating Reports

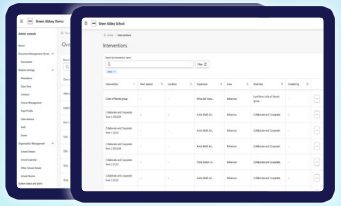


Classroom Management

Class View, Seating Plans & Smart Seating Plans

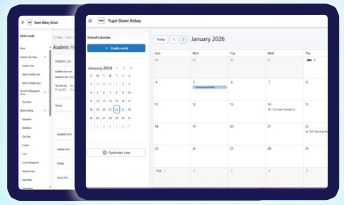
Interventions

Run Interventions & Plan Interventions



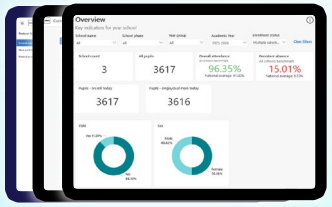
School Calendar

School Calendar & Academic Year Set up



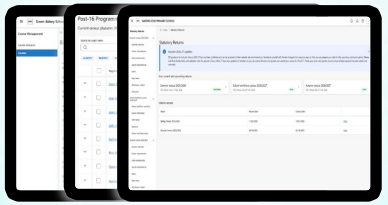
MATs & Groups

Group Hub MAT reporting & Custom Groups



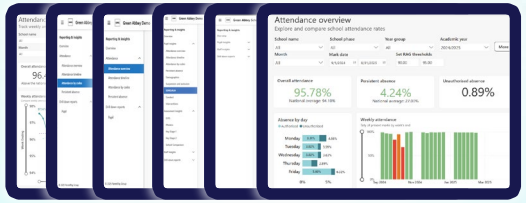
Curriculum/Census

Course Management, Post-16 PoS & Census



Reporting & Insights

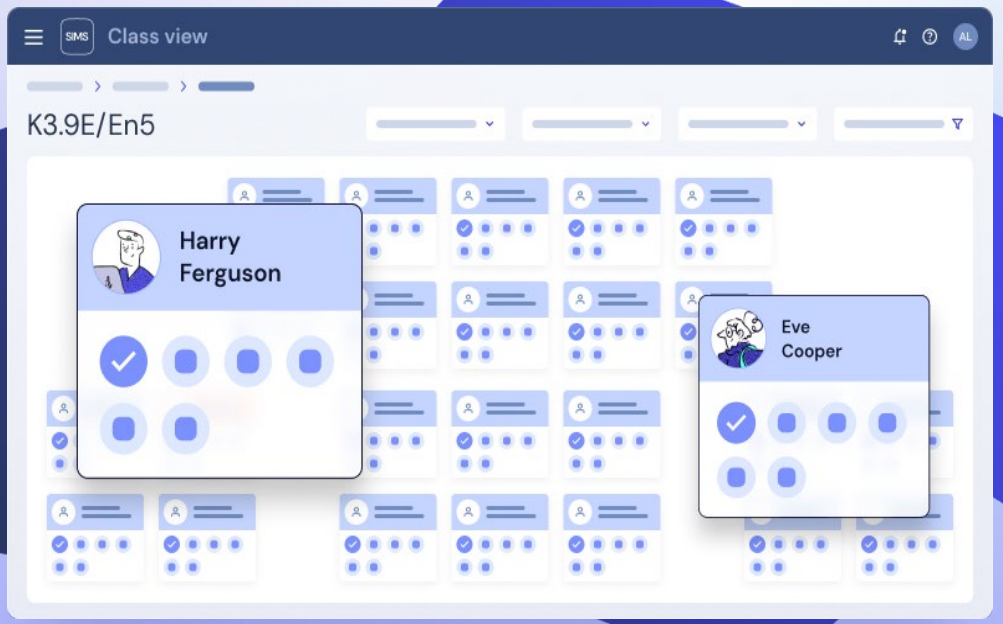
Attendance, Absence, Demographics, SEND/ALN, Conduct, Interventions & more



Completing Next Gen transition by the end of 2026

Coming Autumn term 26

- → **Full Assessment Suite**
- → **Student List Builder**
- → **Admissions**
- → **Product Integrations**
- → **Assessment Administration & Pushdown** (Group Hub)
- → **Census Audit** (Group Hub)
- → **Trust-level calendar**
- → **Internal Notifications and Alerts**
- → **Exams**
- → **Cover**

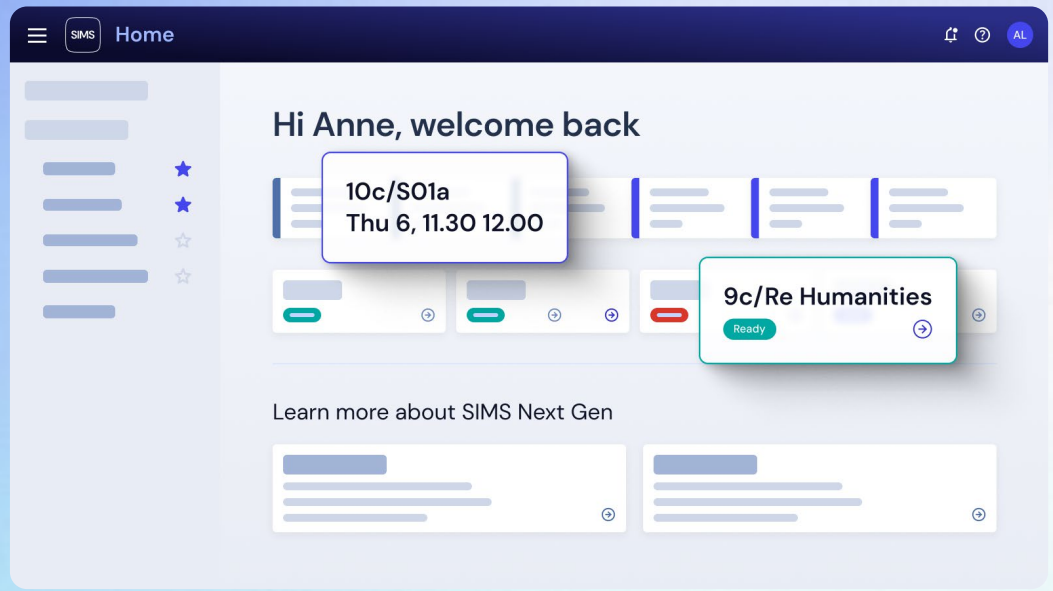


Coming in 2027

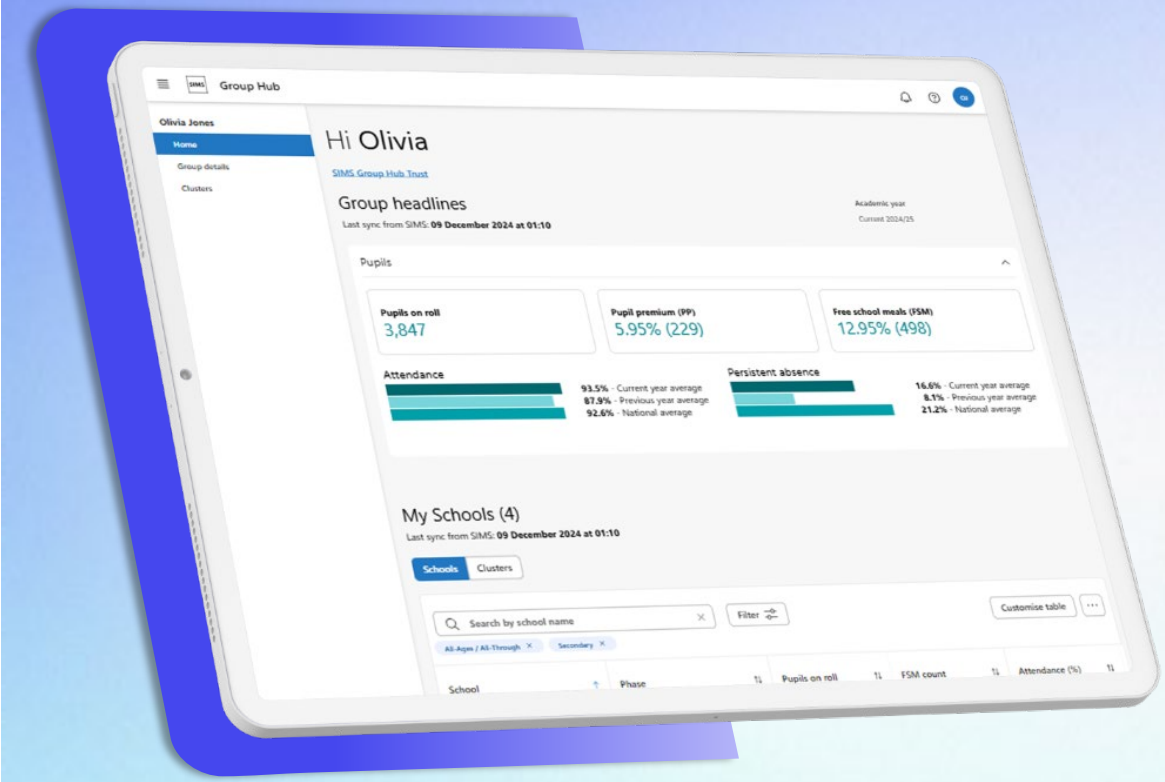
With 450 engineers and a dedicated team of researchers, product managers, and designers, we're significantly investing in innovation across the whole of SIMS throughout 2027, shaped directly by customer feedback.

Our key themes will be:

- **Workflow automation and AI**: giving staff their time back by coordinating day-to-day tasks and actions.
- **Actionable Insights:** Data and reporting that turns insight straight into action, not just more reports.
- **Personalised experiences:** putting the right information in front of the right person.
- **A connected ecosystem:** the confidence of one unified, safeguarding-first platform.



Spotlight on 2026



LIVE

Group Hub for MATs

One clear view across your whole Trust

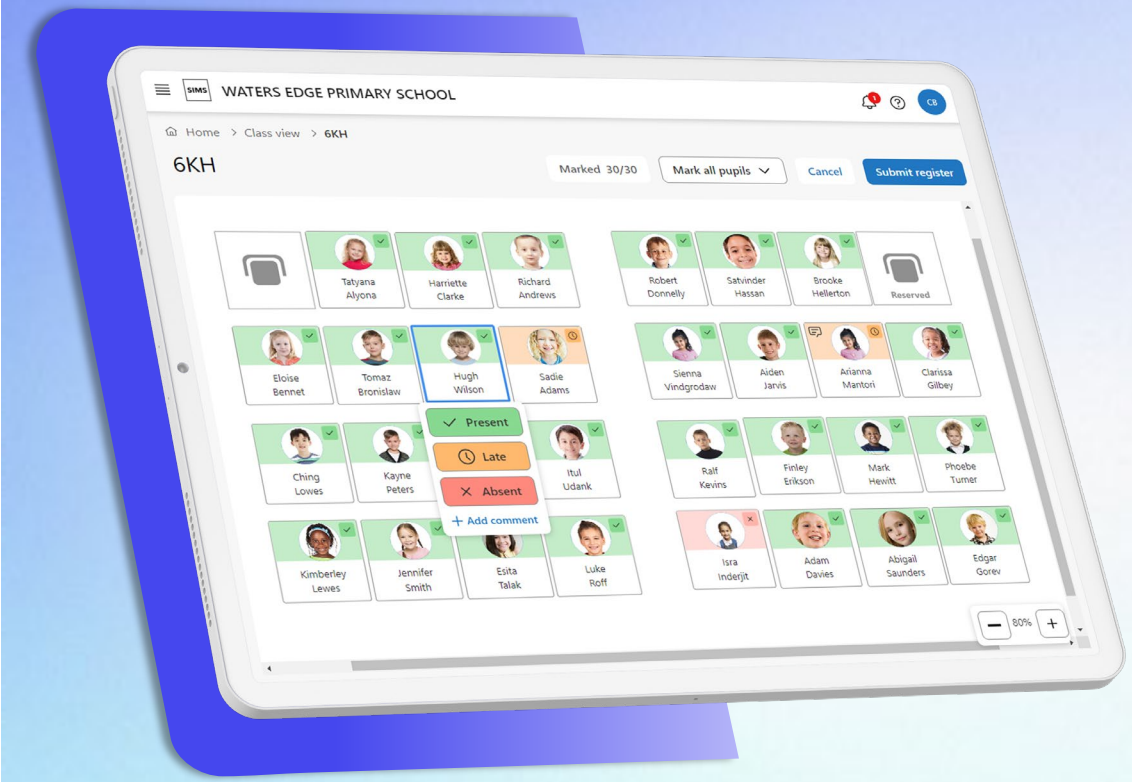
- SIMS Group Hub gives trust leaders the oversight they need to lead effectively.
- Central access to every school in your trust, without a separate login for each one.
- Centralised control that still leaves each school's day-to-day detail intact.
- Reporting and analytics that bring your schools together in one place.

LIVE

SIMS Reporting & Insights

See the story behind your school's data

- Brings data from across your school into clear, interactive dashboards, with a growing suite of configurable reports.
- Everything in one place, with attendance, behaviour, SEND, and much more side by side providing you with insights, not just data, to help you act with confidence.

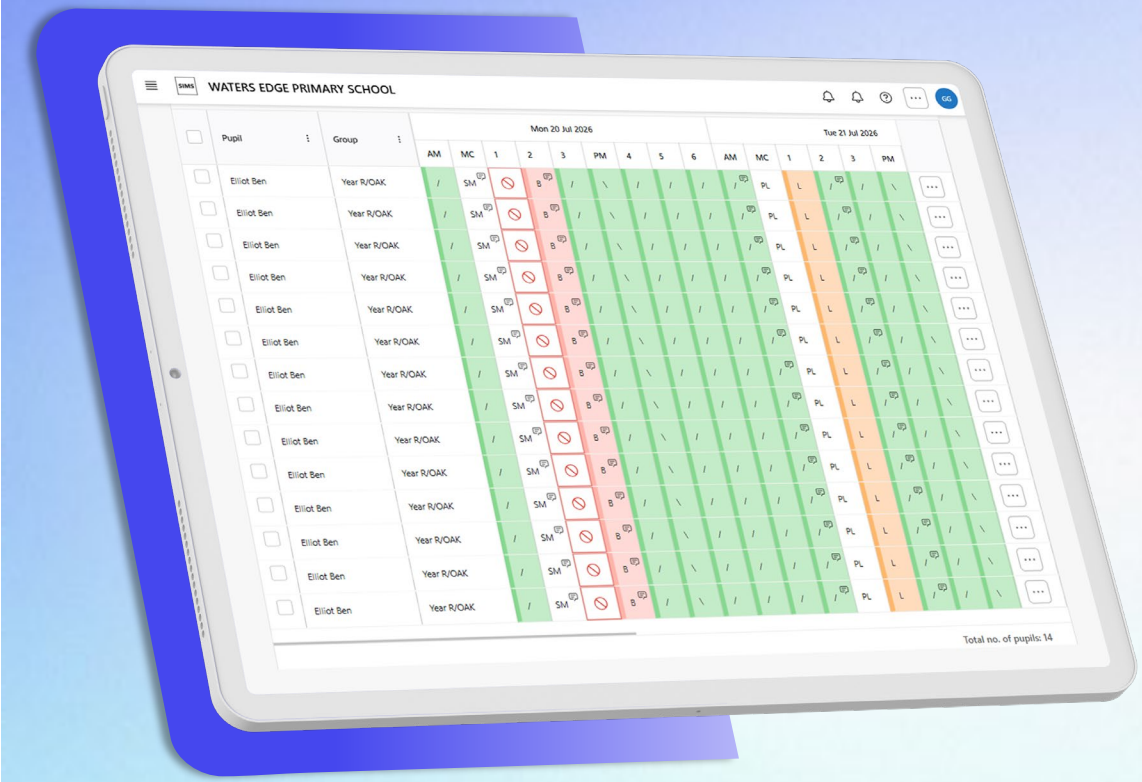


LIVE

SIMS Class View

Setting the standard for everything a teacher needs

- Take the register and spot attendance dropping below KPI thresholds, in time to step in.
- Create an AI-generated seating plan that reduces distractions and supports pupils who need it most.
- View SEND information in the classroom, so support stays personalised to each pupil.
- Record medical incidents and log conduct in one place, for an up-to-date view of each pupil.

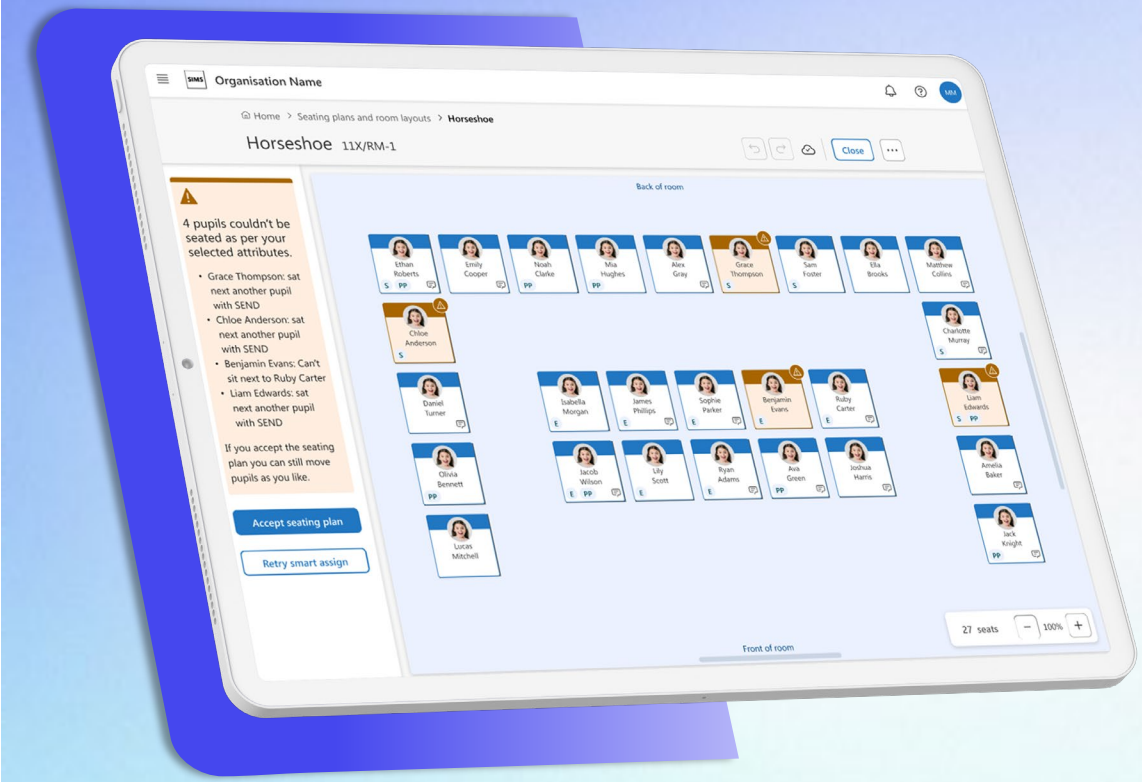


LIVE

SIMS Attendance Management

A central hub for streamlined attendance management

- A simplified attendance hub for creating and managing expected attendance patterns, with grid-based editing, bulk updates, and missing register management.
- Helps with handling exceptional circumstances and statutory returns, backed by built-in attendance insights.
- Staff can track a pupil's location at any time, ensuring they comply with safeguarding and attendance regulations.

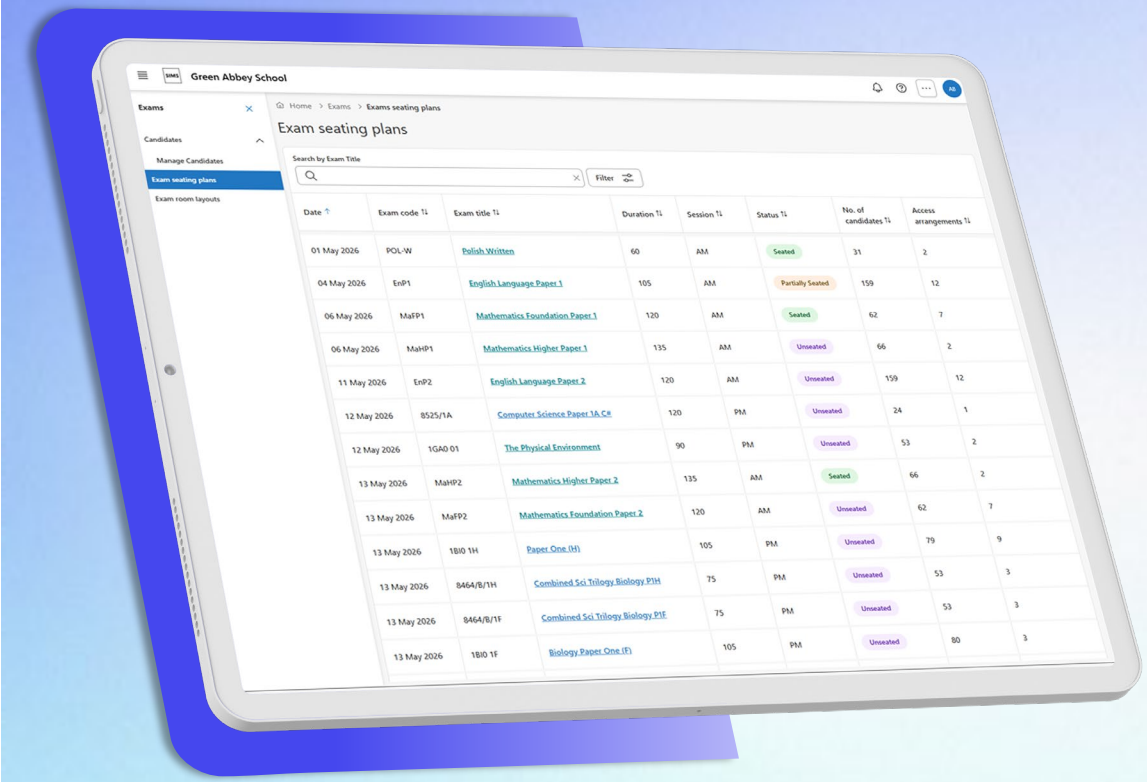


LIVE

Smart Seating Plans

Powered by AI

- Add natural-language notes to guide seating, from who shouldn't sit together to where pupils sit relative to doors, windows, and other room features.
- Takes pupil attributes like EAL and SEND into account, for more inclusive, considered seating arrangements.
- Respects AI processing consent and flags any instructions it couldn't follow, so teachers stay in control.

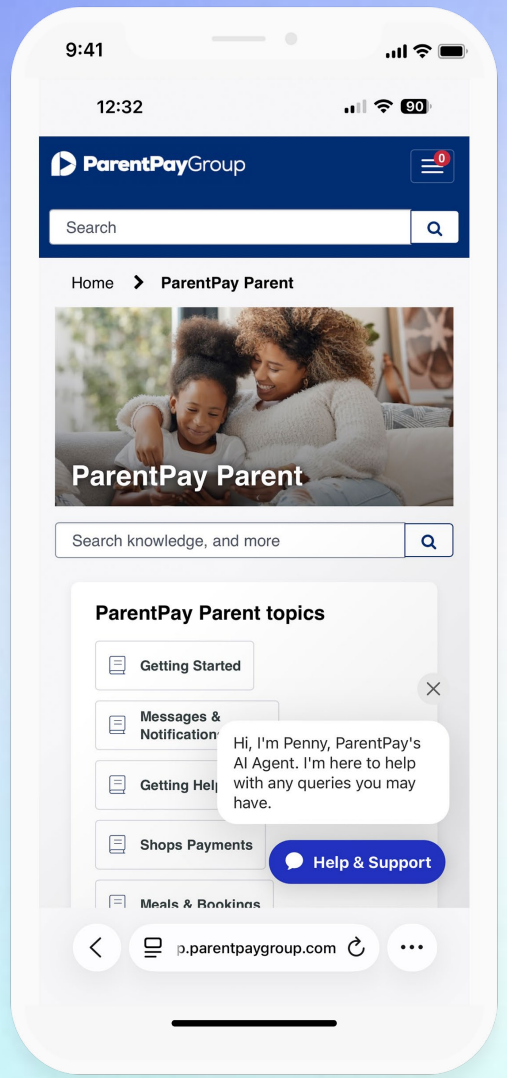


LIVE

Exams Seating

One workflow for exam room seating

- Design and configure exam room layouts, from windows and doors to invigilator desks and power sockets.
- Review candidates, clashes, access arrangements, and extra time in one place.
- Copy seating plans across components, so officers aren't rebuilding the same layout for every exam.
- Generate seating-related reports, from candidate labels to exam timetables, directly in platform.



LIVE

Penny for parents and school staff

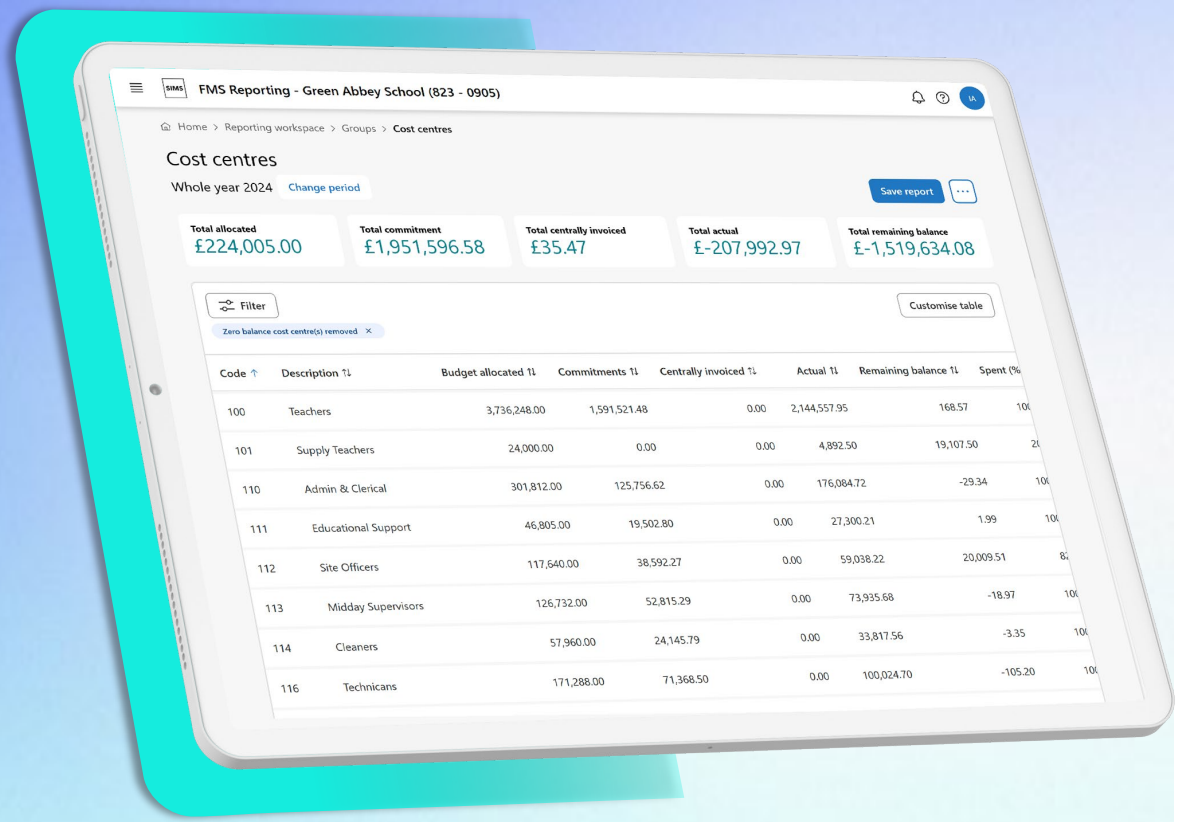
Bringing AI support to parents and school and MAT staff

- Penny deals with over 197,000 parent queries annually on behalf of our customers – using AI to triage and solve queries.
- 85% of all parental enquiries are dealt with by Penny as a first-time resolution.

Autumn 2026

FMS

A new generation of FMS, built for the way schools work today

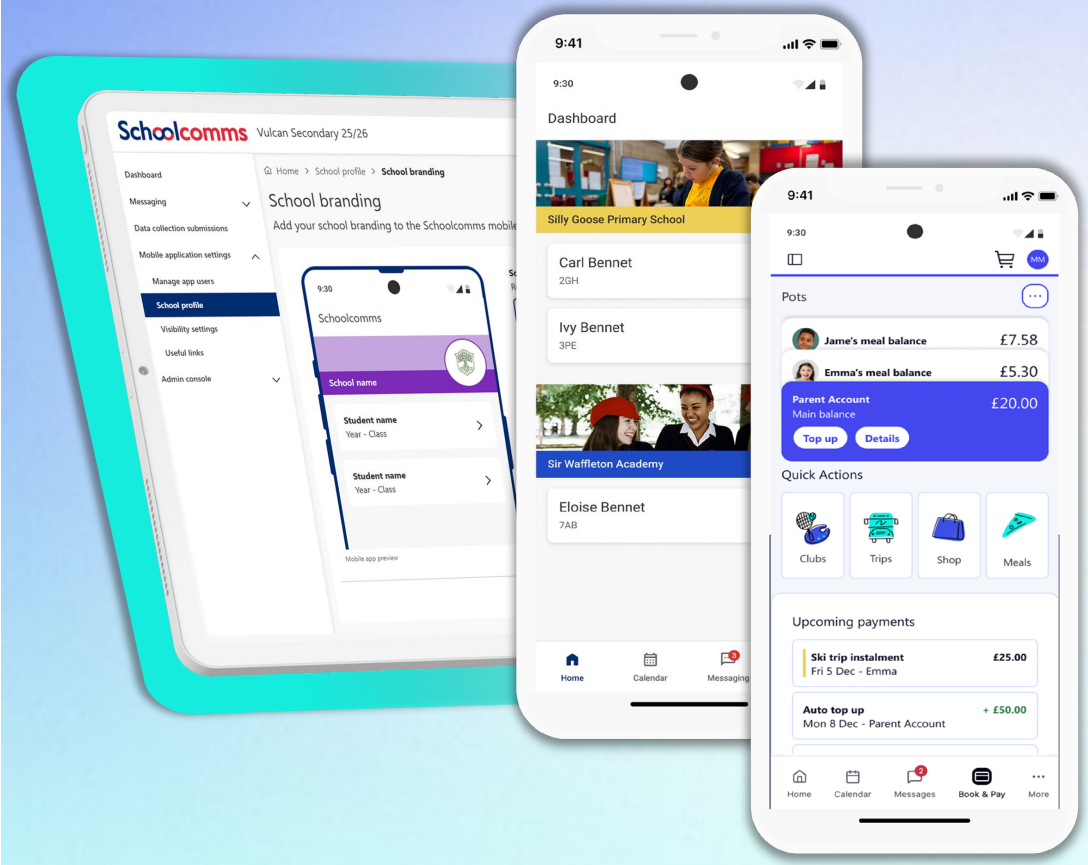


- A secure, cloud-native platform that gives schools access to FMS from anywhere, with automatic updates and no local installation.
- A simpler, more accessible experience with intuitive navigation and streamlined workflows that make every day finance tasks easier.
- A complete rebuild of FMS, creating a modern platform that provides a stronger foundation for continued innovation.

Autumn 2026

New parent app

One app. One back office. One easy way to connect with parents

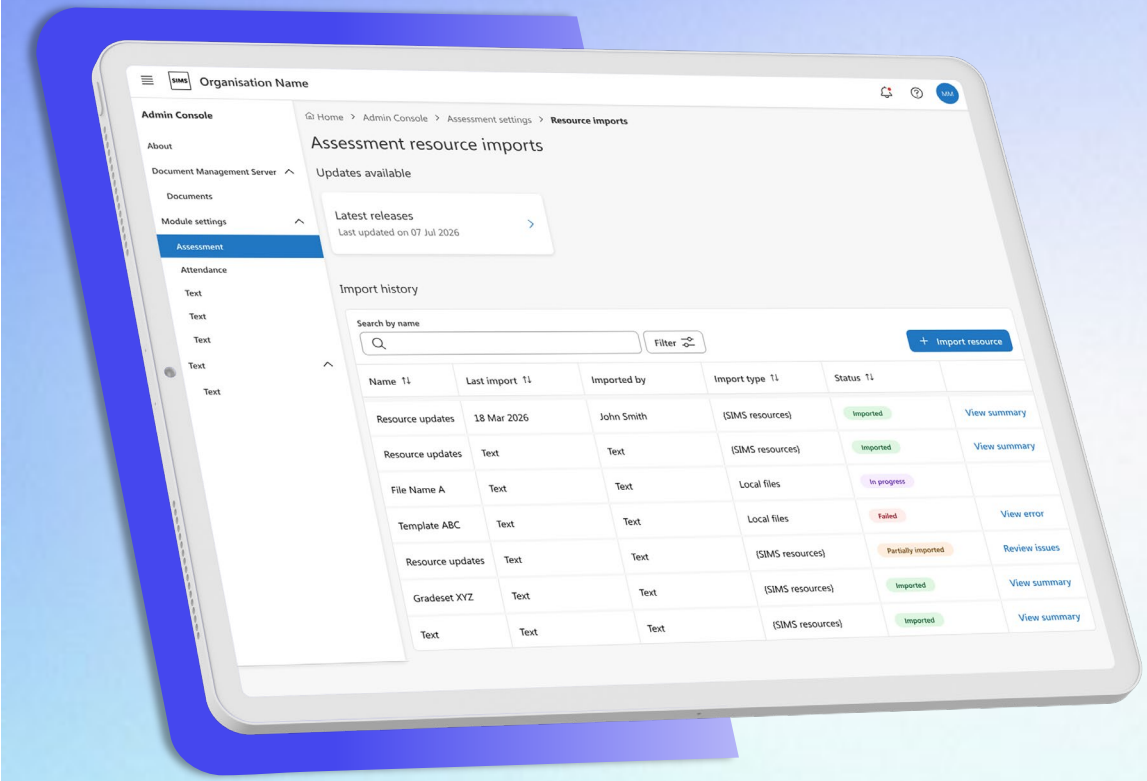


- Real-time attendance, behaviour, and attainment updates within the app via SIMS to help parents stay connected to their child's progress.
- For payments, meals, trips, clubs and more come together in one basket, one login, one smooth journey, with a payment experience that builds trust between school and home.

Autumn 2026

Assessments

A simpler, more powerful assessment system



- Supporting a wide range of assessment types across primary and secondary, with MAT-level oversight built in.
- A more streamlined, automated system for recording and managing assessments.
- Create one assessment policy covering every subject that shares a grade set and frequency, instead of duplicating manually.
- MATs can administer assessments centrally and cascade them down to individual schools.

New initiatives for 2027

Coming in 2027

Our key themes will be:

- **Workflow automation and AI**: giving staff their time back by coordinating day-to-day tasks and actions.
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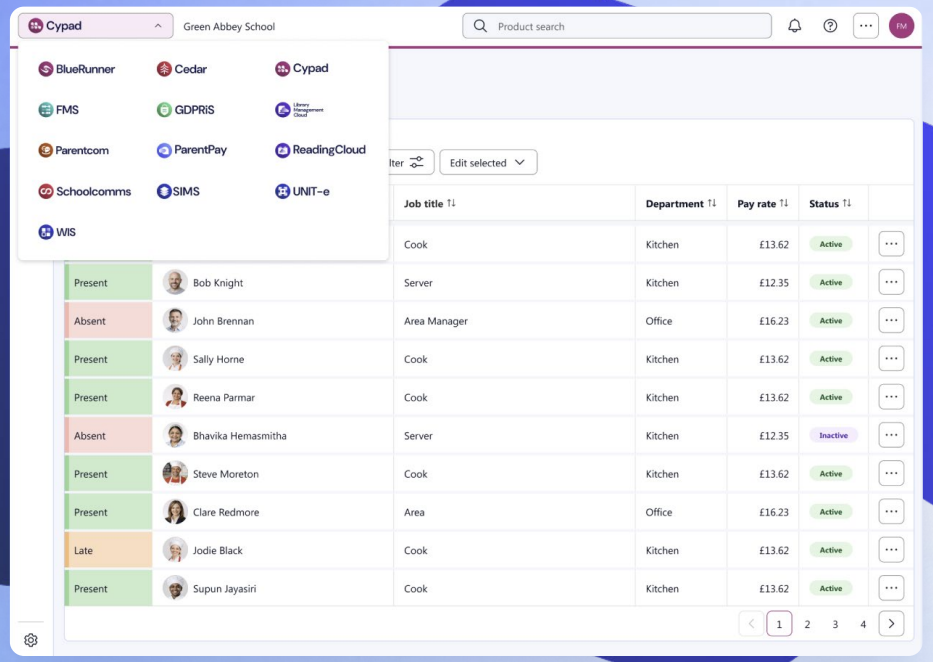
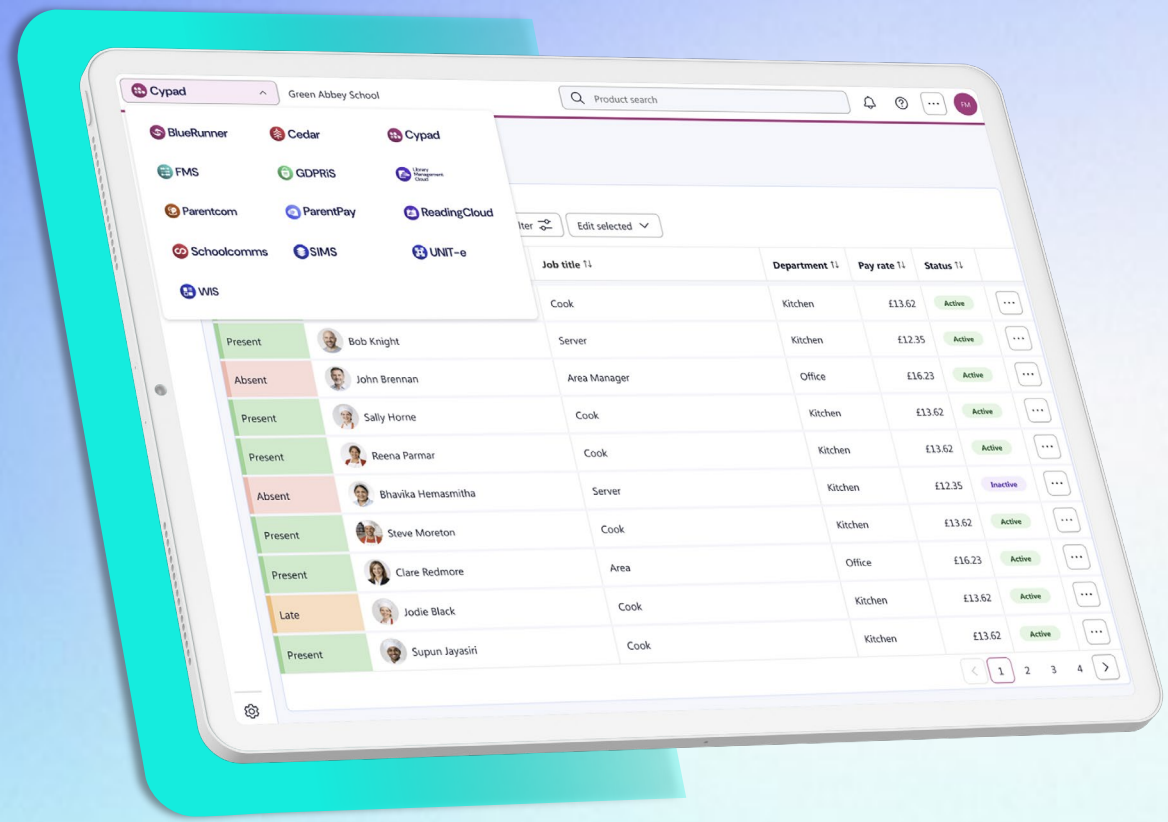


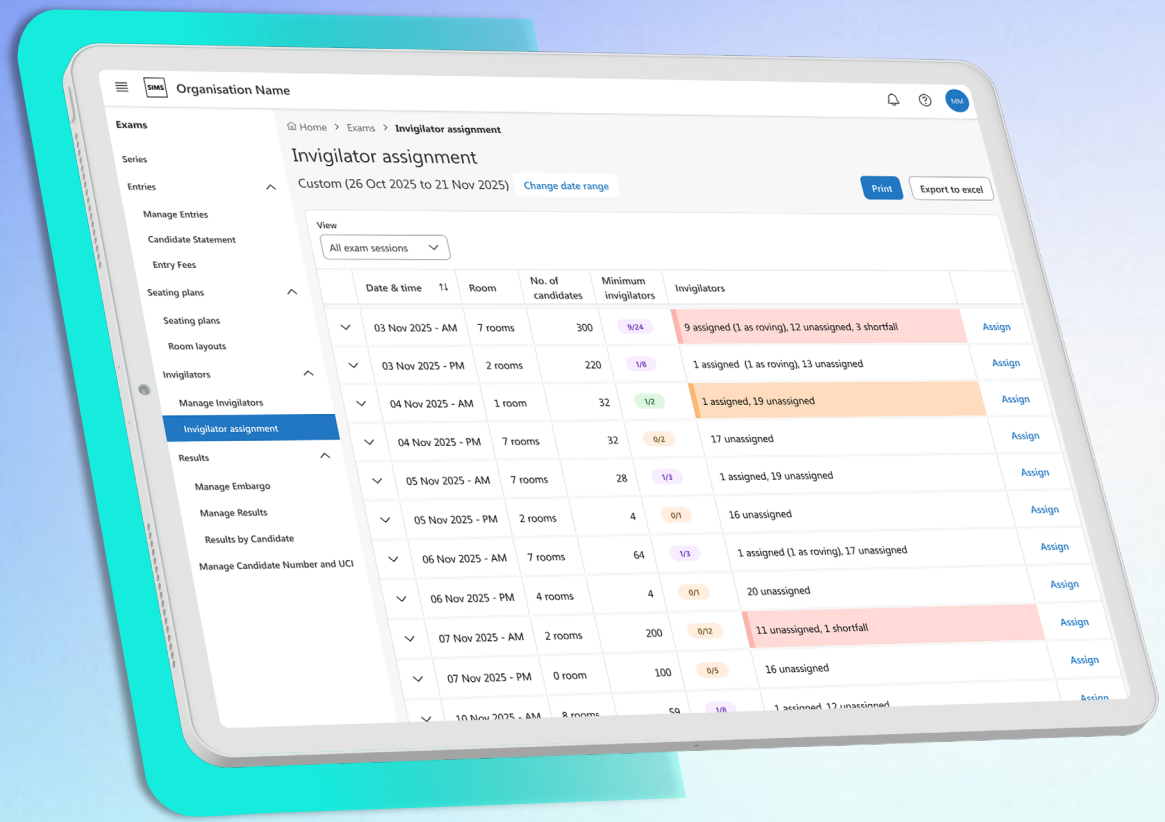


Coming 2027

A unique, single integrated platform

Every ParentPay Group product fully connected – staff will be able to switch instantly between them, all within the same interface.

- One login, one platform, through single sign-on (SSO) and seamless integration via the Group API.
- Centralised access and reporting across every product.

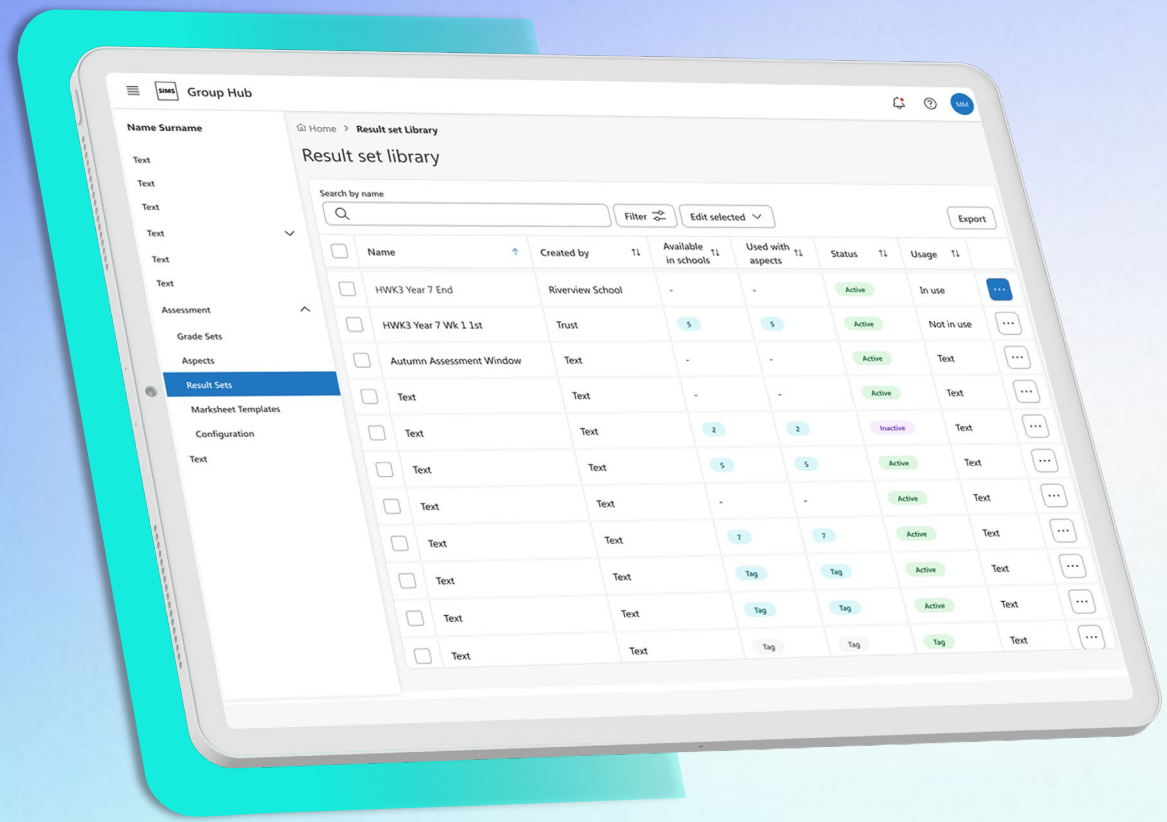


Spring 2027

Invigilation Management

A single place to plan, assign, and manage invigilators for every exam session, alongside Exams Seating.

- Build invigilation rotas based on staff availability and the exam timetable.
- Flag conflicts of interest and double-bookings before they become a problem.
- Cover absences quickly, with a clear view of who's free and qualified to step in.

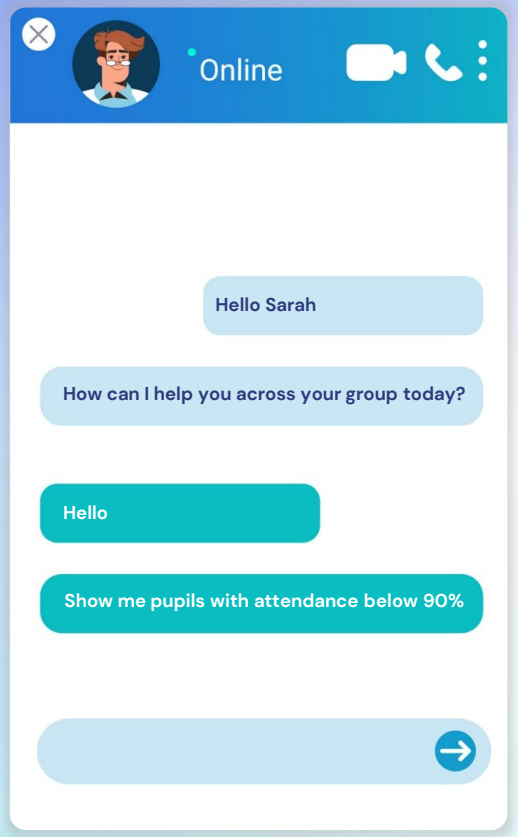


Spring 2027

What's next for Group Hub

Early 2027 priorities

- Extending Group Hub beyond MATs, to LAs, school groups, federations, and international school groups.
- Ask natural-language questions over your group-wide data and get fast, permission-aware answers.
- Richer workforce oversight, moving from a basic staff list and profile to central workforce insight.
- Inspection-readiness indicators aligned with the latest Ofsted framework, to support school improvement.



Spring 2027

SIMS Group Hub virtual assistant

Bringing AI support to school and MAT staff in Group Hub

- The new virtual assistant is embedded into SIMS and Group Hub offering school and MAT staff help on any questions relating to areas such as attendance, conduct, demographics, interventions and staff absence.
- Our assistant will also be further expanded into other group products by the end of 2027.

Spring 2027

Workflow automation

Letting SIMS automate everyday tasks for you

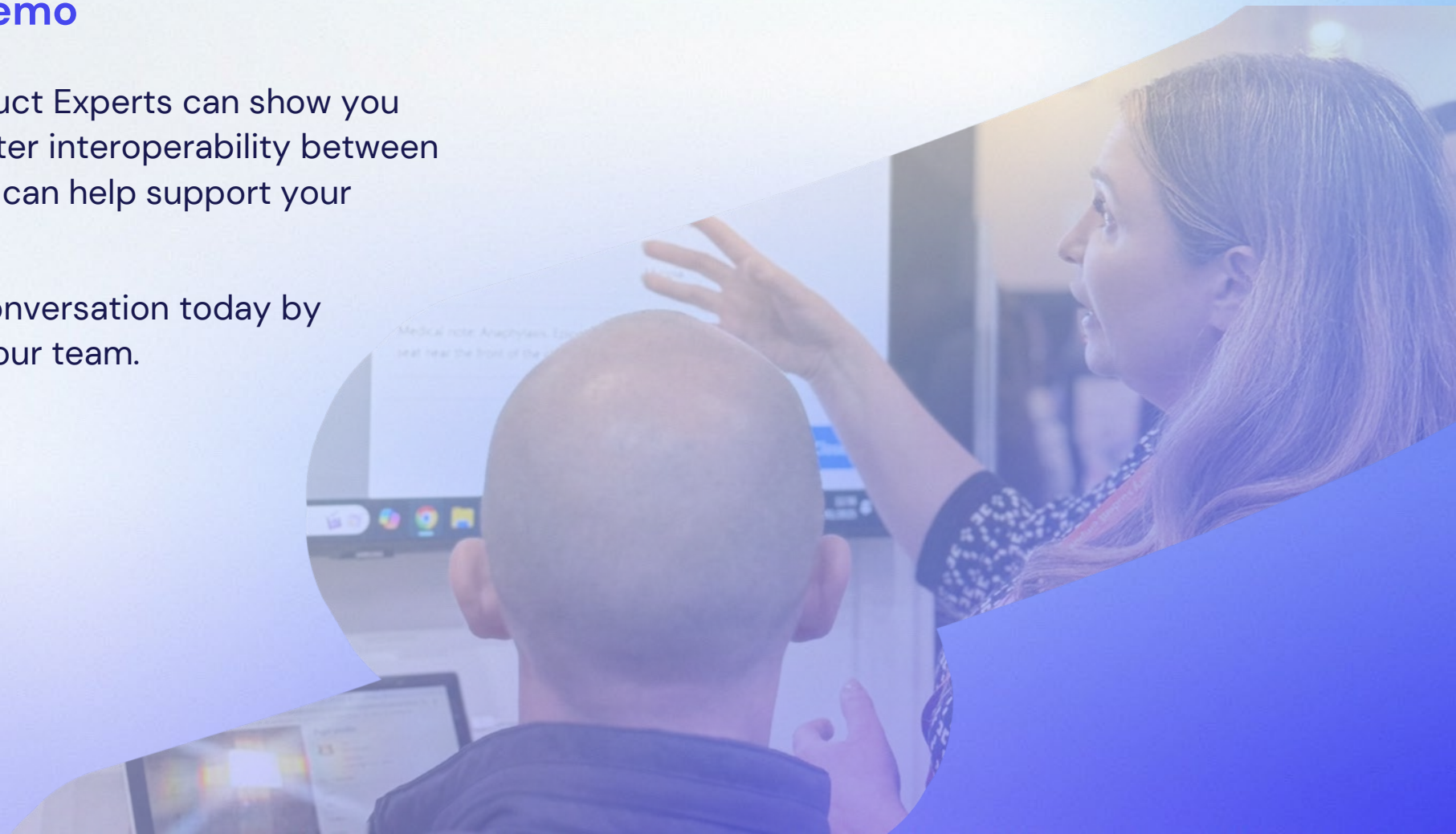
- Our new workflow automations will allow school and MAT staff to create and manage their own workflows within SIMS.
- Staff can build workflows around specific triggers or conditions (ie: if attendance falls below a certain threshold) which will lead to automated actions within SIMS such as a Head of Year being notified.

Continue the conversation

Book a personalised demo

Our Product Experts can show you how greater interoperability between solutions can help support your priorities.

Start a conversation today by emailing our team.



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