

16th January, 2025 - Vol 45

Welcome

Welcome to our first newsletter of 2025. It will contain important updates and useful information about your ICT provision.



In this issue we include the following:

- School Census
- MIDAS Training Videos
- SIMS Training
- Guest Welearn Accounts
- Free Online Safety Workshops
- Windows 11
- Focus on Feedback
- Stats
- And finally

School Census

Guidance and documentation

As today is school census day this a reminder that you can access all of our census guidance and documentation via our MIDAS Documentation site using the link below.

[School census](#)

If you are a non we-learn school and a MIDAS subscriber, please fill in this quick form in order to be given access to the site for all of the team's future documentation: <https://forms.office.com/e/z4jm2L2G84> (note that access will not be immediate, but we'll get to it as quickly as possible!)

~ Hannah Buist, Team Manager Applications Support

MIDAS Training Videos

Featured topic of the week

Our new online training content is now live and available to all MIDAS subscribers!

This week's featured topic is **Census Statutory Tables**. Statutory tables will appear as panels in your census return. You can create and run a census without attending to these tables, but if data housing them is missing or incorrect, the census will generate numerous queries and errors. For this reason, it is probably best to complete these statutory tables before creating a return.

[Census Statutory Tables](#)

Accessible via the Training Videos button on bit.ly/midasdocumentation all staff in school now have access to video tutorials that can be accessed at a time to suit them. This new format for free training gives you the opportunity to watch particular videos as many times as necessary, skip videos you don't need assistance with or that aren't relevant to your role, revisit content if you haven't covered it for a while, and have more control over the training you need.

If you are a non we-learn school and a MIDAS subscriber, please fill in this quick form in order to be given access to the site for all of the team's future documentation: <https://forms.office.com/e/z4jm2L2G84> (note that access will not be immediate, but we'll get to it as quickly as possible!)

Please note that all paid for courses will currently continue to run in the same way - with online teacher led courses run via Teams, and can be booked at <https://www.ictds.org/sims-training-courses>.

~ Hannah Buist, Team Manager Applications Support

SIMS Training

New dates for the Spring Term

We have a number of SIMS training sessions scheduled for the Spring Term covering the following areas:

- Advanced Reporting
- Personnel New Users
- Personnel Reporting
- Assessment Manager - Essential Skills for Secondary Schools
- Options Online
- Attendance Refresher

Please visit our website for more information and to book places - [SIMS Training](#)

~ Hannah Buist, Team Manager Applications Support

Guest Welearn accounts

How to create guest accounts

Did you know we have the facility for you to create guest accounts?

We do not recommend to use generic accounts for supply staff due to data protection / GDPR concerns, We also realise that it is not always convenient to enter the supply staff into SIMS and wait overnight for their accounts to be provisioned.

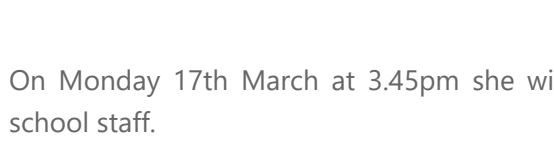
We have therefore created a "Guest Staff" feature on the ICTDS School Manager Portal. Please visit our Cloud Applications Website in order to see the process for adding staff guest accounts - please refer to section 9 of the following document.

[Using The Manage Password Portal.docx](#)

~ Sunny Assi, Cloud Application Support Officer

Free Online Safety Workshops

For Digital Safeguarding Subscribers Only



Following the success of our staff and parent Online Safety Workshops held last year, we have invited Kat Howard to offer these same workshops for our schools this March. These are for our Digital Safeguarding subscribers only.

On Monday 17th March at 3.45pm she will be running a FREE one hour workshop for school staff.

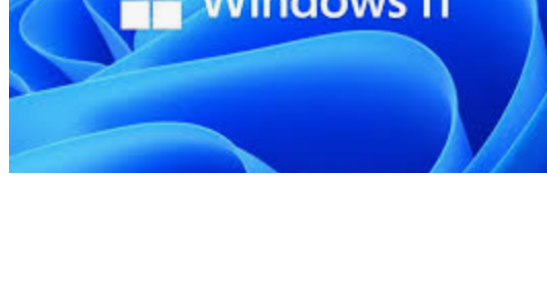
On Wednesday 19th March at 7pm she will be running a FREE one hour workshop for all school parents.

Please reference the email that has been sent to Digital Safeguarding subscribers on 7th January 2025 for more information.

Hannah Buist, Team Manager Applications Support

Windows 11

Windows 10 is end of life on 14th October 2025



There is not long to go now until Windows 10 is end of life on 14th October 2025.

Whilst it may seem like months away, in terms of actual school days there is only around 150. That means that we need to ensure that all the devices that can be upgraded are running Windows 11. Those that are not Windows 11 compatible are replaced with other devices that are.

We do have audits for schools available and these are updated regularly. We have advised on the status of almost 4000 devices across our estate. If you have not had yours, please ask us and we will provide the numbers for your site.

For those devices that we can upgrade, we can do them remotely overnight at an agreed day and time, this will have to be booked in so we can prepare the devices. We can also do site visits or as part of a TSV should time allow.

Upgrading to Windows 11 is essential for several reasons.

- Firstly, it offers enhanced security features, such as advanced encryption and protection against malware, ensuring your important data remains safe.
- The new user interface is more intuitive and user-friendly, improving productivity and ease of use.
- Windows 11 also supports better performance with optimized system resources, leading to faster boot times and smoother multitasking.
- It also includes new tools and features which can enhance how you work.
- Upgrading ensures compatibility with the latest software and hardware, ensuring that we are keeping your system up to date with technological advancements.
- Overall, Windows 11 provides a more secure, efficient, and modern computing experience.

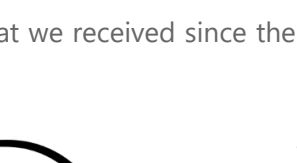
If your device(s) are not Windows 11 compatible, please get in [touch with us for options](#). We are looking to offer solutions for all budgets including Remanufactured Laptops with three-year warranties.

For details of the audit we have carried out at your school, please email us at ictdsservice@warwickshire.gov.uk with your school detail and "Windows 10 PC AUDIT" in the subject line and we will update you with our numbers. **(if you click the link enclosed most of the information will be entered for you, please change to add your schools' details)**

The cost of upgrading the PC's will depend on the type of device and its specification.

~ Pez Demetriou, Team Manager Service Delivery

Focus on Feedback



Here is some of the feedback that we received since the last newsletter via the closed call survey.

“Always very helpful and sort any issues as quickly as possible.”

“Fantastic prompt service Thank you.”

For schools subscribing to our Digital Safeguarding service, you may (or may not) have noticed that there is a feedback form link in the email signature of reports you receive. If you're able to spend a few minutes providing feedback it would be really valuable.

~ Caroline Murphy, Business Relationship Co-ordinator

Stats Update

16th December - 10th January

~ Caroline Murphy

Total calls logged and fixed

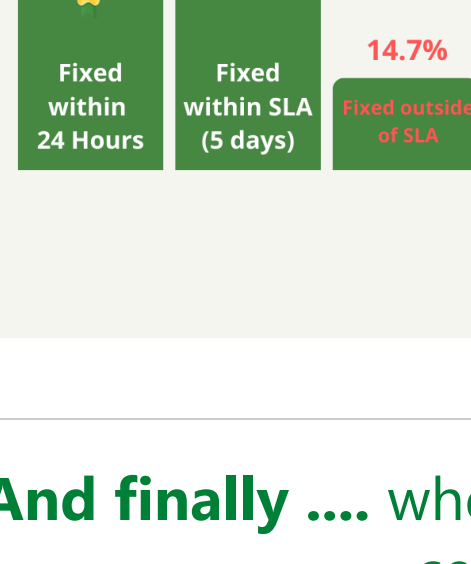
Calls Logged
258

Calls Fixed
258

Calls logged - every call logged through our Service Desk, whether via phone or email, between the given dates.

Calls fixed - every call fixed between the given dates, regardless of when they were originally logged.

Service Desk call fix time



Digital Safeguarding: Reported Incidents

	Primary	Secondary
Grade 3	26	369
Grade 5	4	14

Grade 3 - includes things such as swearing, bullying, inappropriate web searches, self esteem issues.
Grade 5 - are the most serious incidents and are always reported by phone. These include threats to life and illegal activity.

And finally when was the first school census?



Prior to 2007, the Schools Census dataset was known as the Pupil Level Annual Schools Census (PLASC). Comprehensive PLASC data was first collected in 2002.

~ Caroline Murphy, Business Relationship Co-ordinator

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YOUR FEEDBACK

We're really keen to hear about how you think we can improve our service. What could we do better?

What do we not offer that you would like to see? If you have any comments or suggestions, please email

ictdsfeedback@welearn365.com

To unsubscribe from our newsletter, click [here](#).