Resources Available from the national education network for which access from schools should by-pass the ISP.

Background

Connections to the West Midlands Regional Network give schools a direct high-capacity link to resources attached to the UK universities' SuperJanet network. As these links do not use the public Internet they are a known quantity and have managed performance.

Content

These links connect users in the West Midlands with all other schools connected to broadband through RBCs, to FE colleges and UK HE institutions.

In addition to opportunities for collaboration there are a number of other useful sites that are visible on this network and these include:

- National Grid for Learning - www.ngfl.gov.uk
- Becta - www.becta.org.uk
- Birmingham Grid for Learning - www.bgfl.org
- London Grid for Learning - www.lgfl.net
- Staffordshire Learning Net - www.sln.org.uk
- British Pathe - www.Britishpathe.com
- Natural History Museum – www.nhm.ac.uk
- BBC/OU CPD Materials - www.teachandlearn.net
- START project on-line pupil attainment data system hosted by Stoke on Trent
- UKERNA www.ukerna.ac.uk and any other UKERNA resources including access to the UKERNA VC pilot, MCU and ISDN gateway
- KS Strategy on-line CPD materials

Future Opportunities

Increasingly content providers are moving to locate their content on this shared backbone. This will reduce the requirements for Internet bandwidth and as a result should reduce the overall cost of the network.

The real benefits of a "known network" emerge when using real-time applications. This is primarily focussed on delivery of audio and video conferencing, but also enables confident delivery of other services in a business-to-business real-time model such as data exchange to support START.