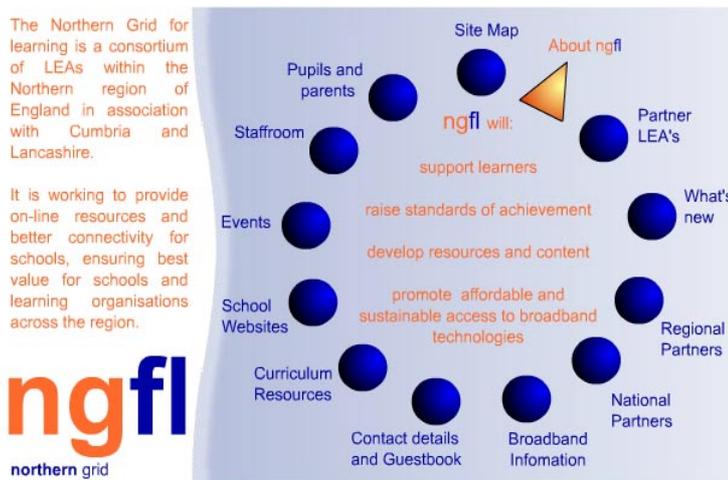


# The Northern Grid For Learning (ngfl)

<http://www.northerngrid.org/home.htm>

The Northern Grid For Learning (ngfl) is a consortium of Northern England Local Education Authorities in association with Cumbria and Lancashire. It aims to:

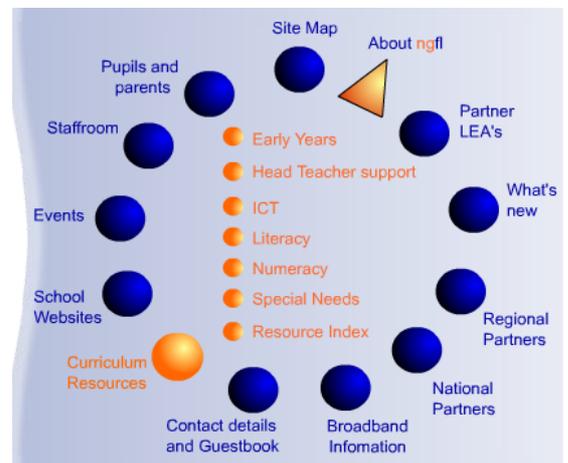
- Support Learners
- Raise Standards of Achievement
- Develop resources and content
- Promote affordable and sustainable access to broadband technologies.



The Home Page, as shown to the left, gives the user access to many different resources and information – targeting teachers and parents especially.

## Ease of Use

This site is very user-friendly. It is clearly set out and easy to navigate. It provides a site map and information about the consortium, as well as a “What’s New” page. On ‘mouse-over’, another menu appears and from here you enter the area of your choice (as can be seen to the right, on mouse-over of ‘curriculum resources’). In addition to this, users are also able to search the site with ease (searching for ‘ICT’ retrieved 125 results for this site alone).



## Content and Curriculum Relevance

The site is very informative and mainly targets an audience of teachers and parents, although there are a couple of sections aimed at pupils. The site appears very up to date – there is an advertisement for the forthcoming “Through Leadership to Learning with ICT” national two day conference, being held in November, and in ‘What’s New’, the user can view the “Site of the Month”. However, the site does not say when the information was last updated.

In relation to teaching and the National Curriculum, the site is aimed at showing the user how ICT can be used effectively in relation to many National Curriculum areas including literacy, numeracy and SEN. The site provides resources such as lesson plans and ideas, online tutorials, reviews of software and links to many useful sites.

We found that this site was also relevant to unit 15 (systems: managing a project).

### **Design and Presentation**

The site is effective, eye-catching and well laid out. It is not too 'busy' as you find with some sites. There is a good balance of graphics and text, and the site loads up easily. The only part that does not work at the time of writing this, is the guestbook facility. There are good links to various school websites (in the immediate region, national region and international region) and other useful sites, such as [www.think.com](http://www.think.com) and [www.schoolmasters.net](http://www.schoolmasters.net). There are also links specifically for pupils, parents and governors.

### **Conclusion**

Overall, the site is easy to use and load up, with good resources, information and links. There are good lesson ideas and plans, and information on national events is readily available. There is also the ability to enter a virtual chat room for pupils, although we did not get the chance to try this out. We would definitely recommend this site to teachers and parents.

Laura Johnson and Liz Lewis.  
1/10/01