



Seamless Internet Connectivity for Schools and Education

Introduction

I Need Broadband is a leading Alternative Network Provider (Altnet) based in Nottingham, offering innovative internet solutions tailored to meet the evolving digital needs of educational institutions. Unlike traditional broadband suppliers, we own and operate our own full-fibre network infrastructure directly from our data centre in Nottingham. This ensures we provide high-speed, reliable, and secure internet connections without relying solely on third-party networks.

Why Choose an Altnet?

An Altnet (Alternative Network Provider) operates independently from the major telecom operators by building and managing its own network. This allows I Need Broadband to deliver customised and scalable solutions with greater flexibility, superior performance, and direct customer support. Schools benefit from:

- **Direct Connectivity:** Faster issue resolution and optimised network performance.
- **Cost-Effectiveness:** Competitive pricing without middlemen.
- **Innovative Solutions:** Tailored packages to meet educational requirements.

Network Infrastructure

We operate our own **full-fibre network** across Nottingham, providing ultra-fast internet directly to schools. In areas where our infrastructure isn't available, we utilise **National Network Interconnections (NNIs)** with major tail carriers like Openreach, Sky, CityFibre, TalkTalk Business, and more. This ensures seamless **nationwide** coverage.

What is NNI?

NNI (Network-to-Network Interface) is a direct interconnection between networks. Our Layer 2 NNIs allow us to provide schools with consistent, high-performance internet by integrating with other major networks without compromising speed or security.

Internet Connectivity Solutions

We offer two comprehensive internet solutions for schools:

Option 1: Total Connectivity Solution

- **Primary Connection (WAN1):** Full-fibre leased line providing speeds up to 10Gbps.
- **Backup Connection (WAN2):** Failover via our fixed wireless network or partners' networks, or via our NNI partnership with EE for high-speed 5G Cat18 connectivity.
- **Seamless Failover:** Our Layer 2 NNIs ensure the same public IP address across both primary and backup connections, with failover times of less than **1ms**. No manual switching required.
- **Basic Content Filtering:** Basic filtering or fully integrated with Microsoft Active Directory to meet the Department for Education (DfE) guidelines. **Filtering licenses are provided per device**, ensuring comprehensive protection across all connected devices.

Option 2: Connectivity-Only Solution

For schools already under contract with another content filtering provider but seeking better internet connectivity:

- **Primary Connection (WAN1):** Full-fibre or fixed wireless broadband.
- **Backup Connection (WAN2):** 5G Cat18 or fixed wireless failover.
- **No Downtime:** Instant failover with no disruption to services.

Nationwide Coverage with Local Support

While our network is rooted in Nottingham, we offer **nationwide** coverage through our extensive NNI partnerships. This allows us to provide:


- **Full Fibre Leased Lines:** Up to 10Gbps for large educational campuses.
- **Fibre to the Premises (FTTP):** Speeds ranging from 100Mbps to 1Gbps.
- **5G and Fixed Wireless Access (FWA):** Backup solutions with speeds up to 300Mbps.
- **Remote Support:** Full remote hands support to manage and maintain your network.

Key Advantages

1. **Seamless Backup:** Failover with no change to the public IP address, eliminating the need for manual intervention.
2. **Ultra-Low Latency:** Sub-1ms failover time ensures uninterrupted learning and administrative operations.
3. **DfE Compliance:** Content filtering solutions that meet government standards, with **per-device filtering licenses**.
4. **Scalable Solutions:** Customisable plans from 100Mbps to 10Gbps to fit every school size.
5. **Direct Access to Support:** Local, dedicated support for immediate issue resolution.

Contact Us

For more information or to discuss your school's specific needs, please contact:

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