

## Bríd Graham

### *Splash Swim School*



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Working as a primary school teacher for 20 years gave Bríd Graham a valuable insight into building confidence in children. It is something she holds close to her heart as a swimming instructor and Director of Splash Swim School, based in Sligo.

While working and travelling with a family as their private tutor, Bríd noticed the many opportunities that can come out of swimming. After her travels, she returned to education and obtained a Master's degree in Management from Smurfit Business School, UCD.

She then moved to Sligo and, in 2013, started her first swimming class in the Clayton Hotel. Five years on, she has a team of seven instructors, runs 125 classes a week, and is opening a second swim school in Mullaghmore, Co Sligo. Her swimmers won 53 Community Games Swim medals in 2018.

The school has also increased its offering of Additional Needs lessons and is the chosen Swim provider for Down Syndrome Sligo. In June, it was the only Irish Swim provider to participate in the World's Largest Swim Lesson, a worldwide event that promotes swim lessons as a life-saving skill and drowning prevention method.

Meeting other women who understood the chaos of balancing a business and family life was invaluable to Bríd and she credits ACORNS for keeping her on track with her monthly business goals.

Bríd is currently training as a Swim Ireland and Irish Water Safety Tutor – which will enable her to train her own swim teaching staff – and is focused on expanding her technical knowledge of swimming.

***Providing early stage female entrepreneurs, living in rural Ireland, with the knowledge, support and networking opportunities to meet and even exceed their current aspirations.***