

## 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. Nine years years later, she has a team of ten instructors and runs 138 classes a week.

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.

Last September, Bríd and her team opened Waterford Splash Swim School at the Crystal Leisure Centre. They continue to offer lessons at Sligo Splash Swim School at the Clayton Hotel Sligo, the Lapps Quay Clayton in Cork City and have doubled their lessons at Mullaghmore Splash Swim School at the Pier Head Leisure Centre in Mullaghmore, Co. Sligo.

They also expanded their service to include Junior Splash (Parents and Baby) lessons at the Clayton Hotel Sligo and the provision of Junior Splash at the stunning Radisson hotel in Rosses Point, whilst continuing Junior Splash at the Pier Head!

September 2022 sees the opening of Limerick and Galway Splash Swim Schools, bringing the number of locations in Ireland to seven and the staff employed to 38.

Bríd has trained as a Swim Ireland and Irish Water Safety Tutor – which has enabled her to train her own swim teaching staff – and is focused on expanding her technical knowledge of swimming and her capabilities as a director of a medium-sized enterprise.

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

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An Roinn Talmhaíochta,  
Bia agus Mara  
Department of Agriculture,  
Food and the Marine