



## OPEN UP OUR PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT & RESOURCES TO BENEFIT COMMUNITIES

### **Project:** Trinity Arts & Leisure Swim School

School of Fish is the community swim school run by Trinity Arts and Leisure, part of The Bedford College Group. During 2019-2020 more than 700 children per week were taught by staff at the School of Fish with 572 children progressing up to the next stage in their swimming development programme.

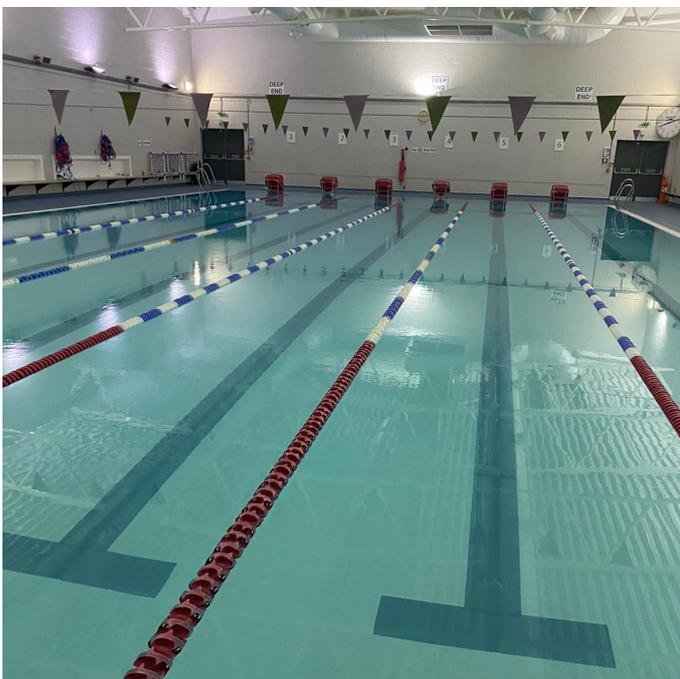
Although the primary catchment area for School of Fish is Bedford, however due to the excellent reputation of the School's swimming teachers, people travel from as far as Biggleswade to attend lessons, which start for children at aged three. Those who are particularly talented can progress on to the development groups and to club level such as the Modernian Swimming Club or Flitwick Dolphins, both of which train at the Trinity Arts and Leisure swimming pool.

As part of its mission to be fully inclusive, the School of Fish also provides lessons to adults: for beginners; improvers and advanced level swimmers. In addition, there are certain community groups who prefer all- female lessons, with a female teacher and others who prefer one-to-one sessions.

Swimming is the only physical activity that is a statutory requirement within physical education in England, therefore all primary schools must provide swimming lessons in Key Stage 1 or Key Stage 2. After the national lockdown in 2020 and subsequent restrictions in the leisure industry, the School of Fish worked hard to support local schools to meet these government requirements by running additional summer schools and intensive courses.

Local Bedford school, Shackleton Primary School stated: "Our school has used the pool and changing facilities at Trinity Arts and Leisure for multiple years now. Booking multiple group sessions throughout the academic year can sometimes feel overwhelming, but the process with School of Fish has always been very professional and efficient. The swimming teachers at the pool have shown consistent expertise and their steady, measured approach has transformed many of our children's confidence in the water and has contributed to our children meeting the National Curriculum swimming expectations. I have no doubt that the swimming facilities available at Trinity Arts and Leisure have been fundamental to our school's swimming success."

Mrs Boon, a parent of three children who have all had lessons with the School of Fish stated: "All of my three children truly benefited from the swimming lessons at Trinity Arts and Leisure. My daughter even qualified to join Luton Diving Club in 2019 following her one-to-one lessons with the School's outstanding swimming instructors. We found the management team to be very professional and we all also very much enjoy family swimming sessions on Sunday afternoons."



*Picture shows the Trinity Leisure & Arts Centre swimming pool*