

Moate students enjoying working with Service Users from St Hilda's on their Sensory Garden project for YEA...

By Ciara Maxwell

This year, Moate Community School's Transition Year students have been busy working on their project for the ECO-UNESCO Young Environmentalist Awards. Continuing on from previous years' projects, we have been working hard on further developing the Sensory Garden in the local Dún na Sí Amenity and Heritage Park. This work includes building a sensory water feature, involving making clay tiles and painting them to put on the feature and also gardening and sowing in the garden.



The TY students however have not been doing the project on their own as they are joined by the service users of St Hilda's. Together the TY students, the St Hilda's group, Coreena Cassells and Camilla Linstedt, with the help of Damian O'Brien (Clonmacnoise Pottery), Margaret Mandal (Moate CS), and the project has been growing from strength to strength.

As for working with the users from St Hilda's group, I can only tell what great friends we have made with everyone. The TY group consists of Ciara Maxwell, Carina Conte, Annalise Peredo, Sinead Kelly, Niamh Kelly and Saoirse Ripley. We have been working on the project from the start of September, meeting up with the team every Monday for two hours. Throughout these weekly visits we have made great bonds with everyone and we always have great craic. If you ever pass us working in the sensory garden or making tiles in Tuar Ard, I can guarantee you lots of singing will be heard! For us as young people, we are delighted to have the opportunity to be able to meet and make friends with the pupils

from St Hilda's in such a fun and relaxed environment.