



**THEATRE PACKAGE FOR
CHILDREN'S MENTAL HEALTH
2019 – 20**

MELVA is a project for 7-11 year olds which uses a theatre production about anxiety and worries to improve children's understanding and personal practices for good mental and emotional health.

It is a partnership between theatre company, Mortal Fools, and Children North East. The focus of both organisations is improving the lives of children and young people.

MELVA is produced in association with Public Health Northumberland as a direct response to the Government's 2017 Green Paper *Transforming Children and Young People's Mental Health Provision*. It is designed as a creative resource to support schools, teachers and children to improve their health outcomes.

WHAT WE'RE OFFERING

- Pre-visit phone calls and emails with Mortal Fools' team to plan visit and other project activities
- Printed lesson plans and online project resources for KS2 classroom use
- One full day in school – including an 80min theatre performance and 4 x 40min support workshops
- One day practical wellbeing and resilience CPD training workshop for mental health leads / SENDcos
- Participating pupils' wellbeing scores, that can be used in OFSTED reporting

DATES

Your involvement with the project will take place over 2-3 weeks between February and March 2020. Wherever possible, we will try to offer you your preferred dates, as part of our overall touring schedule.

COST

Because of generous grant funding for the project, we can offer the above for a nominal fee of **£500 per school** for up to 120 KS2 pupils. (Subsidised from an actual cost of £4,500.)

WHAT WE NEED FROM YOU

- To provide suitable, accessible space for set-up of theatre show (e.g. Hall) and workshops
- Commitment to paying the £500 fee (which we will invoice you for)
- Commitment to completing pre-visit classroom activities with relevant pupils
- Commitment to completing evaluation of this intervention, including providing two case studies
- Contact details for key link staff member in school.

To book your place for this tour, please submit a contact form via our website

www.mortalfools.org.uk/melva or email admin@mortalfools.org.uk

BACKGROUND

Melva tells the story of Melva, a 10-year-old girl whose struggles with anxiety keep her from leaving the house. Her Grandpa has grown so worried about her that he fakes his own disappearance in the hope that it will compel Melva to leave the house and so overcome her 'worrits'. What follows is a funny and poignant adventure for them both, where each learn how their 'worrits' affect them and new ways to tackle them separately and together.

For more details, see www.mortalfools.org.uk/melva

"MELVA is a truly magical journey into the depths of young people's anxieties and worries. It has really helped to focus on how our pupils view their own issues and more importantly - how they can best deal with them" – Cate Haslam, Deputy Headteacher, Highfield Middle School



Supported using public funding by
**ARTS COUNCIL
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IMAGES FROM THE SHOW:

To see footage of the set-up process for the production, visit www.mortalfools.org.uk/melva-school-info

