

# Harmful Digital Communications Act (HDCA)

## PRINCIPLE 01

A digital communication shouldn't disclose sensitive personal facts about an individual

*This means that people shouldn't share sensitive private information about someone else online.*

Examples:

- Posting a screenshot of someone's medical diagnosis from a group chat.
- Sharing a classmate's home address or phone number on Snapchat.

## PRINCIPLE 02

A digital communication shouldn't be threatening, intimidating, or menacing.

*This means people shouldn't use digital communications to scare, threaten, intimidate or menace other people.*

Examples:

- Sending "I'm going to get you after school" via Instagram DM.
- Posting "You better watch out" on someone's TikTok comments.

## PRINCIPLE 03

A digital communication shouldn't be grossly offensive to a reasonable person in the position of the affected individual.

*This means people shouldn't use images or language that is extremely offensive.*

Examples:

- Posting an offensive meme with deeply degrading slurs about a classmate.
- Sharing a gory or violent Photoshopped image designed to humiliate or shame someone.

# Harmful Digital Communications Act (HDCA)

## PRINCIPLE 04

A digital communication shouldn't be indecent or obscene.

*This means people shouldn't use images or language that is obscene or indecent.*

Examples:

- Sending someone unwanted sexual images or "nudes."
- Sending sexual jokes, GIFs, or comments in order to groom someone.

## PRINCIPLE 05

A digital communication shouldn't be used to harass an individual.

*This means people shouldn't post repeated unwanted digital communications to others.*

Examples:

- Creating fake accounts to continue messaging after someone has blocked you.
- Commenting negative things on someone's posts every day.

## PRINCIPLE 06

A digital communication shouldn't make a false allegation.

*This means people shouldn't create or spread lies about others.*

Examples:

- Posting a rumour that someone stole something when they didn't.
- Making a TikTok accusing someone of cheating on a test.

# Harmful Digital Communications Act (HDCA)

## PRINCIPLE 07

A digital communication shouldn't contain a matter that is published in breach of confidence.

*This means people shouldn't share something private or personal that someone else trusted them to keep confidential.*

Examples:

- Forwarding a screenshot from a private mental health support-group chat to others.
- Sharing a confidential email where a friend disclosed their sexuality before they were ready to tell others.

## PRINCIPLE 08

A digital communication shouldn't incite or encourage anyone to send a message to an individual for the purpose of causing harm to the individual.

*This means people shouldn't tell others to send messages or images to a person which will cause them harm.*

Examples:

- Telling a group chat, "Everyone message them and tell them how ugly they are."
- Posting someone's username encouraging others to harass them.

## PRINCIPLE 09

A digital communication shouldn't incite or encourage an individual to commit suicide.

*This means people shouldn't tell other people to end their life.*

Examples:

- Sending "You should just kill yourself" in a heated argument.
- Commenting "Just end it already" on someone's post.

## Harmful Digital Communications Act (HDCA)

### PRINCIPLE 10

A digital communication shouldn't denigrate an individual by reason of colour, race, ethnic or national origins, religion, gender, sexual orientation or disability.

*This means people shouldn't put others down or insult them because of who they are.*

Examples:

- Posting racist jokes about a classmate's background.
- Using slurs about someone's sexuality or gender identity online.