



Catholic Education  
Board Management

# Catholic Education Board of Management

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**From:** Chief Executive Officer, Catholic Education Board of Management  
**To:** Principals of Catholic Schools  
**Dated:** May 21, 2014  
**Subject:** Graduation exercises at Catholic Schools

The Catholic School is charged with the responsibility “to announce the gospel in such a fashion as to assure the relationship between faith and life in the individual person and in the socio-cultural setting in which people live, act, and interrelate”. (Antilles Bishops’ Pastoral Letter on Education 2011).

With this mandate in mind as we enter the ‘*Graduation Season*’ the CEBM draws the following to the attention Principals and all those responsible for planning of this event in their schools.

**1. *Invited guests***

Catholic schools are not to be used for promotion of partisan politics. While political party officials may donate a prize and attend to present same, they should not be invited to bring greetings on behalf of their party or leader.

**2. *Cultural Items.***

The Graduation Ceremony should reflect the mandate quoted above. Cultural items, including songs and dances should be carefully chosen with words and gestures that are appropriate to the ideal relationship between faith and life of the graduating class.

**3. *Choice of Songs.***

It is usual for the graduating class to render a song in keeping with their theme. Please ensure that the lyrics of the song chosen are compatible with Gospel values. Note that many popular songs may employ gospel type catch phrases but the message contradicts such values.

**4. *Dress Code.***

All participants: teachers, parents and students are expected to dress in a manner that befits the dignity of each person.

**5. *Proper Protocol.***

Please observe Proper Protocol in the seating and speaking order of guests and in the manner in which they are addressed by the Host of the Function.

The Graduation Ceremony should always be a reflection of all the Core Values of Catholic Education

Chief Executive Officer

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