

Media Engagement with Religion

Think: What would football look like if it was only portrayed from the point of view of football hooligans?

Pair: Discuss your thoughts with a partner and try to work out what this might tell us about religion and the media.

Share: Be ready to share your thoughts with the whole class.

Watch the clip from Michael Wakelin – he’s talking about how the media shows religion.

NO PENS – JUST EARS!

- Write down any 3 things you can remember.
- Talk to your neighbour and add their ideas to your list.
- Get in a group of 4 and get your list even longer!
- Share with the class.
- Use the class ideas to write a summary of how the media shows religion.
- Do you agree?

“Is there ever a place for self-restraint when dealing with those things held sacred by some members of our community?” Dr. David Tollerton



In a blog following the Charlie Hebdo attacks, Dr. Tollerton outlined three possibilities for future engagement of the media with religion. Which would you favour and why?

1. Make it illegal to publish any religiously offensive materials.
2. Encourage people to use self-restraint for the sake of social cohesion – but not involve the law.
3. Encourage freedom of expression regardless of offence.

Religions should have nothing to do with the media.

The media should be careful what it says about religion.

It is important that religion engages with the media.

The media has a responsibility to show religions fairly.

Religious people should use the media to teach people about their religion.

All TV channels should have to show some programmes about religion.