



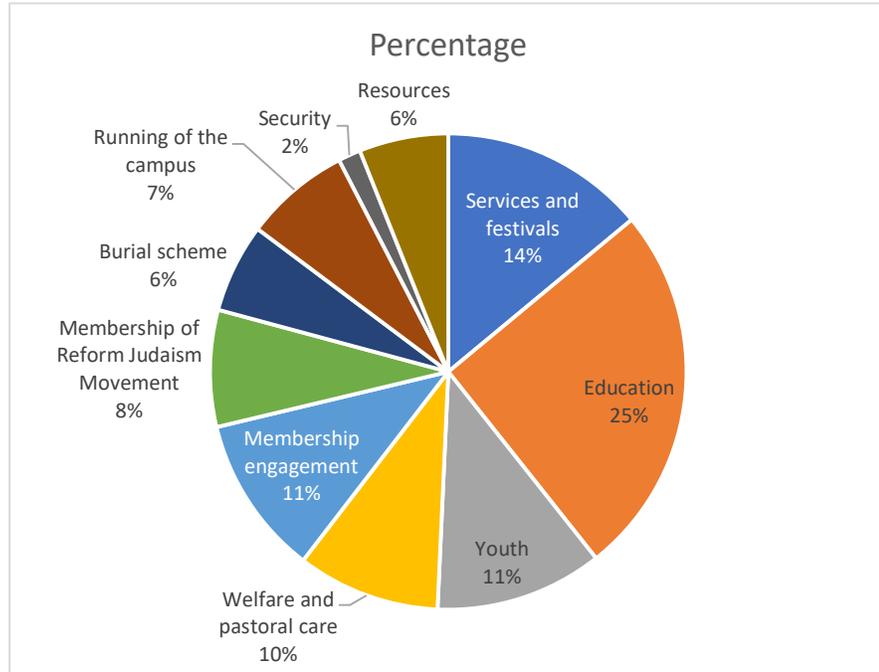
EHRM Money Frequently Asked Questions

EHRM is a synagogue, community and charity that has approximately 3,500 members and is one of the largest reform synagogues in the country. This frequently asked questions document aims to explain the money aspect of membership.

Where does the money go?

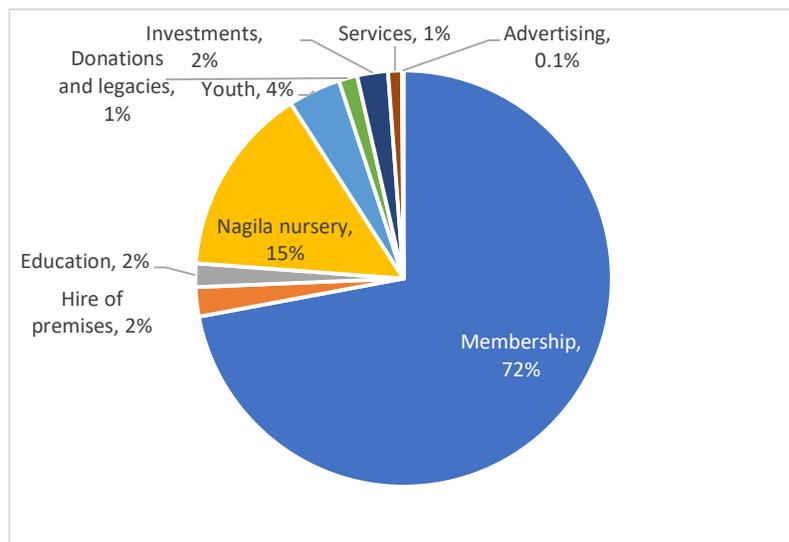
The money is spent on providing the services that members and the wider community rely upon as well as maintaining and improving the facilities.

The chart to the right shows how the funds are distributed and full accounts with the detail are available if required.



Where does the money come from?

As you can see from the chart the majority of the income is from membership fees. We are always looking for other income streams but we fundamentally rely on membership fees.



How much are the fees?

The standard membership fee is £495 per adult and an optional recommended donation of £15 to the Board of Deputies. Children under the age of 21 are included in the adult's fees. There are two other membership levels of Affiliate (no burial rights) and Associate (for non-Jewish partners) which are less.



EHRS Money Frequently Asked Questions

It is free to go to services, why do I have to pay?

Everyone is welcome to Shabbat and other services, however being a member of EHRS is far more than being able to walk into the building. Being a member of EHRS represents membership of the community where your financial contribution supports the vital work that takes place. All of the welfare, education, youth, pastoral, social, charitable and of course religious activities could not take place without a properly funded community and your contribution is vital to that.

EHRS has plenty of money, why do I have to pay?

Whilst it is true that EHRS does have funds, the responsible trustees of the communities need to ensure that the funds are used to ensure the future of the community and not support the day to day running costs. The funds are used for special projects with careful consideration to provide what current and future members need. The trustees welcome suggestions from members for additional projects and will consider where it meets these objectives.

I'm not really involved, why do I need to pay so much?

At different times in people's lives naturally the needs from their synagogue differs. Just like many other aspects of life those that make the largest financial contribution may not be those that benefit the most at that point in time. As a responsible community it is important that EHRS remains and grows to support people as their or their loved ones needs change in the future.

Am I entitled to a reduced rate?

We understand that everyone's personal financial situation is different however we recognise that many younger adults in our community are often; starting their careers, settling down, trying to buy a home, raise young children, etc and the full rate of membership may be a stretch too far. Therefore as standard we provide a sliding scale from £90 at the age of 21 to the full membership rate at 35.

What if I can't afford the membership fees?

As a caring community we understand that for many people the standard fee rate is genuinely too much to afford and therefore we will never make the fees a barrier to joining or remaining with our community. All that we ask is that communication is maintained and as issues arise these are discussed in confidence. Equally we ask that if members pay at a reduced rate and their situation changes so that they can afford more or the full rate, this is communicated.

Do I have to pay in one go?

Whilst the fees are due in January, we are very happy for anyone to pay in intervals that suit them throughout the year such as monthly or quarterly. There is no interest or penalty to pay, however please ensure that the office is aware of your payment schedule.

Can I pay by direct debit?

Currently EHRS is not setup to request direct debit payments, but feel free to setup a standing order with your bank (but please remember to adjust the amount if it changes each year).